

July 16, 1957

**Letter No. 27 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

Citation:

"Letter No. 27 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee", July 16, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-323-120, The Korean Diplomatic Mission in Japan, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/123671>

Summary:

Yu briefs President Rhee on a meeting with Kitazawa and Yatsugi regarding Kishi's oral commitment on his complete understanding of the Korean stand on the US memorandum.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, July 16, 1957

No. 27TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

I met Kitazawa and Yatsugi last evening and was introduced to Tanaka Tatsuo who replaced Kitazawa as deputy cabinet secretary. Ambassador Kim was also present. He asked to go along when I told him I would be meeting Kitazawa.

According to Kitazawa, he and Yatsugi were called to the Prime Minister's residence that morning and were asked by Kishi whether or not the Korean side would agree if the Prime Minister were to make an oral commitment that he was in complete understanding of the Korean stand on the U.S. memorandum and other issues. If the Korean side is not satisfied with this oral commitment, there was nothing more to be done, Kishi said to them.

Kitazawa strongly recommended that we accept the Prime Minister's oral commitment and that if he goes back on his word, he (Kitazawa) and Yatsugi would act as witnesses for us. Kishi told Kitazawa and Yatsugi that since the two of them had been instrumental in bringing the Korea-Japan relations to the present stage, they should see to it that the problems are settled and although Kitazawa is not a member of the cabinet he should exert all his efforts.

I told Kitazawa we had complete trust in the Prime Minister's words, however, in view of our past experiences with the Japanese, we are quite wary of their commitments. And to make a long story short, we would be content only if the Japanese side agrees to settle our problems along the lines as presented by the Korean side.

I referred to the press statement made by Kishi about the percentage of concessions the Japanese side made to us and asked them to name the concessions that Japan was supposed to have made and whether they consider the withdrawal of the Kubota statement and the claim to 85 per cent of property in Korea was a concession. I told them that Kishi showed his sincerity by his statement.

Tanaka, the new deputy cabinet secretary replied that he was with the Prime Minister at his press conference but could not remember hearing him make such a statement. He stated that Kishi made mention of 90 percent agreement having been reached and that 10 per cent remained to be agreed upon. It was not 90 per cent concessions, Tanaka insisted and expressed regrets that the newspapers interpreted Kishi's statement in anyway they pleased.



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I told Kitazawa that everything would depend on the Japanese attitude, and since we would not be able to wait indefinitely we must have a definite answer to report to the government. The ambassador made a similar statement; also that it was the Korean side which made the most concessions.

I asked Kitazawa why Kishi broke the appointment he made with us last Saturday. Tanaka explained that the Prime Minister had not been in a position to meet foreign dignitaries on that day as the Foreign Ministry had been the site for a sit-down demonstration staged by Japanese youths who were demanding that the Foreign Office issue travel permits to 500 of them to attend the Moscow peace rally.

Before the meeting broke up, Kitazawa and Yatsugi insisted that we accept Kishi's oral commitment. I told them we would make our attitude clear after we have talked to Kishi and Fujiyama.

The Japs know that they must settle the problems but are reluctant to accept our terms. However, I am convinced a conclusion would be reached soon.