

November 24, 1955

**Letter, Kim Yong-shik of the Korean Mission in Japan
to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Report on unified conservative party, US interest in Sea-Laver issue, trade with Japan

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*cc. Mr. Park*

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, November 24, 1955

Excellency:

I. The former premier Yoshida stayed away from the unified conservative party together with only one person named Eisaku Sato who was one of his principal aides and served as the Secretary-General of the defunct Liberal Party when Yoshida was in power. This was reported in last week's political report (dated Nov. 17, Item No.1, paragraph 2.).

II. Concerning sea-laver, we invited the attention of the United States Embassy here to the fact that Japan prohibited customs clearance of laver from Korea, and as I reported already, the United States Embassy sympathized with us on this issue and also talked to Japan on our behalf. The detailed report is enclosed as Memorandum under the subject: "Korean Sea-Laver Issue".

III. Regarding the trade with Japan, in my understanding, neither the home Government nor this office ever announced the resumption of regular civil trade between Korea and Japan yet. The Memorandum dated Nov. 3, 1955 is outlining nothing but the mechanics of handling trade, in case the trade is resumed. Our Office of Public Information issued a statement on Aug. 17, 1955 to the effect that Korea was obliged to prevent Korean traders from engaging in business with Japan, etc....

In September, I received instructions from the Government informing me that if the Japanese Government agrees to trade with Korea on the basis of reciprocity with us (Japan buys the same amount of goods from Korea as she sells to Korea through the official channels.), the Government is willing to resume trade on such basis. When

I/

His Excellency
President Syngman Rhee

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To Tokyo

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I met the Japanese Vice Foreign Minister on Sept. 26, 1955, he told me that the Japanese Government agreed to this point, in principle. At that time, some press reported that this was a victory of the Korean side, since the trade between Korea and Japan had been unbalanced previously.

Therefore, even if we resume trade with Japan on the basis of reciprocity, this does not contradict our previous announcement on Aug. 17, since we are going to start trade with Japan on a new basis--reciprocity. It is believed that Japan will agree to buy our products in amount equal to the amount she intends to sell us.

With sentiments of loyalty and esteem, I remain,

Most respectfully,

of my state Kim

Enclosure:

Memorandum on Korean
Sea-Laver Issue