

December 22, 1955
**Letter, Minister Yong Shik Kim [Kim Yong-shik] to
the President**

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Summary:

Directions and recommended actions regarding Japanese policies and on Yiu [Yu Tae-ha].

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December 22, 1955

To: Minister Yong Shik Kim

From: The President

Your two letters have reached me in Chinhae.

The Japanese, taking advantage of U.S. backing, are getting wild in their demands. A short time ago they suggested the release of Omura camp detainees, return to Korea all those who entered Japan illegally and on our part to release their fishermen who have served their prison terms. But now they are talking about Korean criminals in order to show how bad the Koreans are in opium handling, etc. I wish we could reveal how Japs are sending opium to Korea to sell among Americans here.

In our reply, let us say that they are intending to establish peaceful relations and we cannot allow them to impose their aggressive design on us with the backing of U.S. government. Under this circumstance we see no other way but to sever all relations with Japan. I think it is best to let the State Department know that Japan is not willing to peaceful settlement of the K-J problems and that there is no use in wasting our efforts any more. In reference to U.S. offer of mediation, our answer should be that we will accept their offer with a definite understanding that U.S. should first mediate on the question of 85 per cent property in Korea. This problem should be settled with no other question as a bargaining point. We demand U.S. to settle this first and then we will take up other questions. We must insist on this. Japan must settle this first or settle nothing. This should be our firm stand until they do something on this question first. As to our detainees we must publicly declare that the longer the Japs keep our citizens without legal charges the more indemnity they will have to pay for every day's detention.

As you well suggested, Japan is responsible for accepting the illegal entrants. They took the Koreans to Japan by force and have secretly welcomed them. From now on Japan, not Korea, is to be responsible. As you stated, the Japs are using dragalong tactics. We must stop them. We want them to either settle it or refuse to do so. We cannot drag along any longer.

We want to make some noise about the traitors Japs are keeping and using against us. We must publicly demand their

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return. I am glad Yiu took the matter up with them and I wish you would bring up this question strongly.

Whenever you see Ambassador Allison quietly tell him that we have never revealed to anyone about his promise to make Japan withdraw the property claim, and that we will never do so as long as it puts him in an embarrassing position. You may also tell General Lemnitzer we will not reveal the fact that he definitely promised to get the N.N.S.C. out of Korea. Assure him we will not tell anyone until he wants us to. Tell the Chinese Ambassador we congratulate his government on the veto and also Dr. Tsiang for his brilliant presentation of China's cause before UN.

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The question which rather worries me is your relations with Yiu. If our people cannot cooperate together we cannot get anywhere. I did all I could to bring you to cooperate on important matters. Yiu seems to be anxious to return home in order to run for the Senate. As I told you before, he is one man who makes contacts with foreigners and you cannot do it as well as he because of your position. If he comes home we will be cut off altogether. I wish to suggest to you that if he cannot work together with you, let us separate him from the Mission and appoint him in charge of our purchasing mission. In that case, you will report to me about his activities. I will direct him so that no conflicting stories may go out to foreigners.

In that connection, I wish to refer to the \$10,000 which I gave you sometime ago for you to use in contacting foreigners, entertainment, car expenses, etc. As you do not seem to be in need of them and you may not know how to use the money for the work, I suggest you turn the balance over to Yiu. You know he has been spending his own money and he needs some help from us. You think it over and let me know. You have been doing so well and I hate to let anything hinder your work.