

이승만의 치적(1949년 4월 19일)

大韓民國公使館
駐美代表官 顧爾

OFFICE OF THE ADVISER
OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
AND
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT BUILDING
SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

平 務 處
大韓民國駐美公使館
副 總 領 事 官

Mr. Dean Acheson
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

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April 19, 1949.

Dear Secretary of State:

General Letter

My observation since the day of arrival at Seoul enables me to inform my friends in America and in England that President Rhee and his government have done wonders in the past seven months.

The display of this Republic's Defense Forces during the President Rhee's Seventy Fourth Birthday Celebration was an unforgettable and inspiring sight not only for myself and the President but also for every one who saw the parade of regiment after regiment composed of healthy and vigorous youths serving in the Republic's Army, Navy and a nucleus of Airforce. These youth's only handicap is the lack of equipment. In addition to these Defense Forces, some 450,000 college students from the Seoul City and every provincial corp will meet at the Seoul Stadium on the 22nd of April, 1949, and celebrate the formation of Students National Guard.

The only disappointing factor here and in the regular Armed Forces of the Republic is the lack of proper equipment. We ardently hope that this disappointing factor be brought to the attention of American leaders and to President Truman in particular.

The obstacles in the way of reconstruction, we have the problems such as the terrible inflation which has sky-rocketed prices of articles a thousand fold. A pencil, which used to cost ten Sen in the days of Japanese Occupation now costs 13,000 Sen or 130 Korean-dollars, is a case in point.

Such inflation is the root-cause of all other evils, and President Rhee is trying hard to control it by inaugurating price-ceilings and currency reform, regularizing production and reconstruction.

Another serious problem is the relief of some 100,000 refugees on Chai-ju Island and 200,000 in South Chulla Province who are made homeless and destitute by the destructive rebels. The ECA help reaches some of these destitute refugees, but the aid is too inadequate. We hope that American philanthropists will help as many of these unfortunate and hunger-stricken people as possible.

As to the problem of winning 3,000,000 non-christians to Christ, I am now cooperating with the Korean Presbyterian and Methodist leaders, on the Protestant side, and with Bishop Re of the Catholic Church in Korea with a view of launching a campaign for the Mass Christianization Movement in Korea.

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Paeng Koo Yoon
Paeng Koo Yoon, Adviser,
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government Building, Seoul, Korea.

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