original in book

COPY

American Embassy, Seoul,

July 9, 1953.

My dear Mr. President:

Upon my return from our meeting this morning, I found the following personal message from President Eisenhower which I have been instructed to transmit to you:

"July 8, 1953

"My dear President Rhee:

"Mr. Robertson's reports encourage me to believe that we can continue to go forward side by side. I hope you share my feeling that recent conversations have clarified many misunderstandings and have brought about an intimacy of understanding and purpose between us which has been too long deferred. I deeply sympathize with your future goals and am sure that they can best be achieved by measures which will not sacrifice the achievements of the past and the friendship and confidence of the American people. This friendship and confidence can, if you will it, be a dependable reliance and support of your people for a future which, in a world of danger, will yet realize your legitimate hopes and aspirations.

"Throughout these days I have been profoundly sympathetic with you. My own position as the President of the United States has been formulated not out of a lack of sympathy, but out of a realization born of hard experience that great goals are seldom r alized by desperate measures. Your illustrious place in history as a great patriot is due to patient and sober striving. We want to be allied with you in such endeavors.

"With every good wish, I am,

"Sincerely,

"Dwight D. Eisenhower "

His Excellency
Syngman Rhee,
President of the Republic of Korea,
Seoul.

245

0283

I am sending this letter to you by special messenger because I wished it to be in your hands before our meeting at 11:30.

Sincerely yours,

Walter S. Robertson

246
0284