PHONE NATIONAL 8-3700 • CABLE ADDRESS KORPAC

THE KOREAN RESEARCH AND INFORMATION OFFICE

1828 JEFFERSON PLACE N.W. • WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

March 17, 1960

#15.

Dear President and Mrs. Rhee:

Many thanks for your good letter of March 7. I am glad you had a tasted of spring in Chinhae and hope that soon you may return for a longer stay.

Meanwhile the people of Korea have given you the best of all possible birthday presents in the tremendous outpouring of votes, with the overwhelming endorsement of your cnadidacy and the sweeping victory of Mr. Lee. While you and we join in regretting the instances of violence and misconduct, the results are so staggeringly definitive that we may hope even the most virulent critics will be convinced where the loyalties of the Korean people are lodged.

Our great hope is that your birthday may be a time of quiet satisfaction for you in contemplation of the great progress that you have brought about both in democracy and in the improvement of the lot of the common people. Much remains to be done, and with Mr. Lee by your side to help you will, I know, accomplish even more in the four years ahead.

During this week I have prepared some materials for Ambassador Yang on: (1) election conditions in Korea; and (2) Korean-Japanese relations. Since I have been unable to get a letter in the mail in time for the pouch, I will send the copies next week and hope they may accurately reflect the true conditions. Also, I got from Ambassador Limb the edited copy of the encyclopedia article I wrote a year ago--which is now going into publication. The editor shortened the article by about one-third but did not materially change it. A bit of up-dating was required, of course.

Miss Richmond and I are delighted that you liked the March issue. I have heard a number of complimentary references to it here and she has received similar indications. We are very hopeful that the April travel issue will be as well received for different reasons. Meanwhile, the Spanish edition is now well under way. So far we haven't had time to get any kind of reactions to it.

I have had a letter from Ambassador Kim in Rome telling me of his difficulties in getting publicity, because of the understandable lack of interest by newspaper editors, and of his desire to establish an Italian edition of the Survey. We plan to reprint the fine newspaper article he did get published, dealing with aspects of Korean history.

With the best of every good wish to you both, including a wish for a very happy birthday, I am

Yours cordially,

Robert T. Oliver

Robert T. Oliver

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rto:cr
Dictated by telephone March 17, 1960

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