

D. Miller

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Telegraphic Text

February 11, 1958

Dear Mr. President:

Your letter of January 23, 1958 was of great interest to me. I want to thank you for the forthright expression of your views concerning Korea's relations with your neighbor, Japan. I am especially happy to hear firsthand of your sincere desire to achieve satisfactory and lasting solutions to the problems of Korean-Japanese relations.

You expressed your concern over Japan's policies. This seems to me to be a measure of the importance attached to achieving success in the conferences you will soon enter into with Japan. Our own experience has taught us the importance of maintaining close and constant communication with all nations of the free world. This enables a full and free exchange of views and experiences. In this connection, our relations with Japan have permitted us to discuss problems of the type you have raised. We believe that our views have benefited Japan in the formulation of her own policies. The lessons to be learned from your bitter experience with Communist aggression and with Communist policy as they have intimately affected your land have not been fully appreciated throughout the free world. The establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and Japan would provide a channel for the Japanese to learn more about the Communist pressures which you are constantly resisting in Korea.

In your letter you raised various noteworthy economic questions concerned with Japan's need to support her large population. It is the sincere desire of the United States that not Japan alone but Korea and all free nations in the Far East build the sinews of economic strength as rapidly as possible. The United States has amply demonstrated its own determination that Korea shall be economically strong and independent by furnishing substantial economic assistance to Korea

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for many years, and I am certain that we will retain this interest in your economic independence. On the other hand, technically and economically Japan has much to offer to help increase the economic strength of free Asia. Here again, Mr. President, good will and a direct relationship can make Japan's economic strength a positive asset to Korea.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the United States stands firm in its resolve to see Korea free from domination by any power. We are convinced that the success of the forthcoming negotiations with Japan will contribute to Korea's position as a free and independent member of the world community. These negotiations should bring to fruition the long-standing hope of the United States for the establishment of friendship between two of our good allies. This friendship cannot help but be a source of strength not only to Korea and Japan but to the whole Far East and the free world.

With best personal wishes,

Sincerely yours,

John Foster Dulles