

Telegram

Washington, December 27, 1958.

Dear Doctor Rhee:

Profoundly disturbed by news stories in American papers reporting violent measures used by majority party in Korean National Assembly to jam through legislation professedly directed against communists but which minority believes can and will be used to suppress minority and their press. Hesitated to believe these stories but in checking with my Government I find press reports essentially accurate.

No one recognizes more than I the constant need to study and improve methods to expose and control communist subversion. But it is hard to believe that if present bill will have no other result than to combat communists more effectively, the bill would have met such opposition from those minority members of National Assembly who are as strongly anti-communist as you and I.

May I impose on our many years of association in fighting both Japanese and communist tyrannies to report my conviction that the undemocratic measures employed in this instance may injure your position here and around the world more than the new law will injure the communists. In fact such measures give the communists just the kind of weapon they desire and can use effectively against your government.

It would be reassuring and helpful to me and my colleagues if you could find some way by word or action to show that this bill will be used only against proven communists and not against loyal Koreans in opposition party.

Because I do not believe it advisable to send this message through public commercial channels, I am asking Department of State to transmit through its confidential means.

Please accept assurances of my highest esteem and loyal personal support.

Walter H. Judd

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