

Dr. Wesley R. Fishel

Dear Dr. Fishel:

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for all the hospitality and assistances extended me during my stay in your country.

As regard the Reparations I have been exerting my utmost since my return to live up to my word by calling on and inducing the political economical and foreign affairs authorities to

- a. arrive at a solution prior to Premier Kishi's visit to Viet-nam
- b. for which purpose preliminary negotiations initiated by Japan should be carried out at Saigon

to which our Government is gradually inclined.

Ambassador Kenagaya is expected to be called back soon for consultation on the matter. The persons whom I have personally conversed with particularly on this problem of Reparations are:

- a. Vice Premier Ishii and Dietman Mitamura (a fellow partner during my Tohokai days and adviser to the Vietnam Association) and other prominent politicians. Dietman Mitamura is a personal friend of Premier Kishi as well as the most confided comrade of Mr. Kono, State Minister and Director of the Economic Planning Agency and most powerful member of the Kishi Cabinet. Mr. Mitamura has influenced Mr. Kono and also has consented on July 12, to approach Premier Kishi, Finance Minister Ichimada and Foreign Minister Fujiyama.

b. As for the people in the economical circles, I have conferred with quite a number including Mr. Uemura, Vice President of the Federation of Economic Organizations. Mr. Uemura has previously submitted to President Ngo Dinh Diem a \$50,000,000 ~~reparation and~~ economic cooperation private plan and is the central figure in the economic world as well as being an intimate friend of Premier Kishi and Foreign Minister Fujiyama. He has consented on July 16 to form a definite decision of the economic circles and persuade Premier Kishi and Foreign Minister Fujiyama.

c. I also obtained the concurrences of Mr. Itagaki, Chief of the Asia Bureau (July 10), Mr. Shirahata, Reparations Councillor (July 9) Mr. Suma, Chief of the ~~Economic~~ <sup>Asianic</sup> III Section (July 12) of the Foreign Ministry Office.

Mr. Shimonaka, Chairman of the Vietnam Association, will call on Premier Kishi and Foreign Minister Fujiyama in the very near future and also will meet Mr. Yokoyama, former Consulate General at Hanoi and an outsider on Vietnam affairs to facilitate the preparatory discussions. ~~has consented to push the government.~~

It was not only a most timely and good opportunity to have conveyed your opinion at this moment, due to the fact that the Japanese Government was seeking solution of the Reparations problem prior to the visit of our Prime Minister to your country but also gave much impetus to the early agreement among the political and economical world and within the Foreign office.

I shall not loosen my promotional work and will assist Mr. Mitamura to urge Premier Kishi, Foreign Minister Fujiyama and Director Kono to that effect.

Mr. Kono, the comrade of Mr. Mitamura, is the most powerful man in the Cabinet and inasmuch as Mr. Ichimada, who governs the financial side is a Kono adherent, the conditions for an early solution on Reparations is deemed most favorable.

One apprehension bothers me, as I pointed out when I saw you, that the Japanese people, on the whole, are not of the opinion that much damage have been inflicted on Vietnam during the last War.

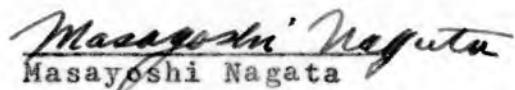
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Therefore, I personally think that the \$150,000,000 request by your Government is unreasonably exorbitant. This opinion is not our Government's conception but the humble general sense of the people. As you can understand, the Japanese Government cannot accept your demand entirely without giving account of the general sentiment. On the other hand, it is my opinion that the Vietnam Government would be better off not to be prejudiced on a near-sighted figurative calculation, but to take into consideration of the future economic cooperation between our two countries unconcerned with the Reparation problem. Based on the logic that the collaboration among Vietnam, U. S. A. and Japan would be a contribution not only to the prosperity and peace of Asia but to that of the whole world, it is earnestly hoped that your Government will kindly inquire further into the matter for a solution with more objective validity.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could inform me of the recent movements of your Government concerning the Reparations problem.

Thanking you for your kind attention and with my personal cordial regards,

Yours very truly,

  
Masayoshi Nagata