

February 15, 1957
Weekly Report from Pyung Sik Son to the President
(Syngman Rhee)

Citation:

"Weekly Report from Pyung Sik Son to the President (Syngman Rhee)", February 15, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-330-091, The Korean Legation in Vietnam, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
<https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/120924>

Summary:

In Choi Duk Shin's absence, Pyung Sik Son reports on the invitation of Korean sports teams to South Vietnam, discussion about South Korea's admittance into the U.N., and the "Columbia Maru" Korean stowaways incident.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

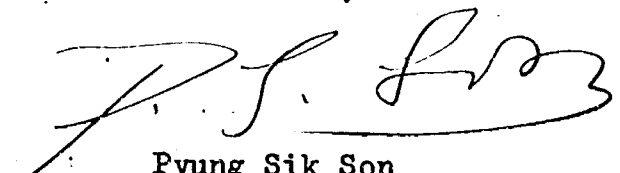
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Government, I was given all support necessary in order to efficiently and properly carry out the instructions of our Foreign Ministry in this matter. The two stowaways were placed in my custody upon arrival of the freighter at Cap St. Jacques and are at present in the Harbour Police Prison in Saigon.

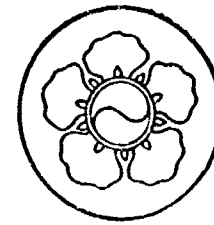
We now await only the arrival of the official from our Government to take the men back to Korea.

I have the honor to be,
with the highest consideration,
Your Excellency's obedient
Servant,


Pyung Sik Son
First Secretary
Korean Legation in Saigon

Attachments : 1. Stowaway list
2. Copy of letter addressed to
Minister of Foreign Affairs
3. Copy of letter addressed to the
Commissar General of the Vietnamese
Harbour Police Forces

His Excellency
President of the Republic of Korea



Nº KLS 0135-021/57

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
S A I G O N

Saigon, February 15, 1957

Excellency,

In the absence of Minister Choi from Saigon, I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency a short summary of events which have occurred recently in Vietnam as follows :

1. Saigon Anti-Communist Exhibit
2. Departure of U.S. Ambassador Reinhardt for Washington
3. Korean Boxing and Football Teams invited to visit Vietnam.
4. Publication of Ambassador Ben C. Limb's article on the admission of Korea to the U.N.
5. Korean Stowaways on board M/S "Columbia Maru".

1. Saigon Anti-Communist Exhibit.
A. Expected date of the Exhibit.

It was the intention of the Vietnam Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League to organize an Anti-Communist Exhibit in Saigon. Invitation for participation were sent, but because of the refusal of the Philippines and of Thailand to participate at this time, the Vietnam APACL judged that the attendance would be insufficient and cancelled it.

Recently, on February 8, Mr. Tran Tam, Vice-Chairman of the Popular Board of Directors for the Campaign of Denunciation of Communist subversive activities in Vietnam, invited me to his office and informed me of the organization of an anti-Communist exhibit in Saigon. This time with only Korea, Nationalist China and Vietnam as participants. This exhibit will be held from March 28 to April 4, 1957, at the Information Hall of Saigon, and is the result of his reconsideration, he said. Mr. Tran Tam told me he believes that this time the exhibit will have a considerable value

due to the opening of the APACL Third Conference, which will take place at the same time as the exhibit. It will assist the Vietnamese people as well as the other delegations to closely follow the anti-Communist activities of the League. He advised me that a place in the exhibit has been reserved for the Korean Delegation to display its materials and documents.

I have consequently advised the President of the Korea APACL of the fact.

B. Senator Gorton of Australia as member of the Australian Delegation at the Third APACL Conference.

Mr. Tran Tam also revealed to me that he has agreed to the participation of Australian Senator Gorton in the coming APACL Third Conference in Saigon as a member of the Australian Delegation. Senator Gordon had expressed his desire to participate in this coming conference during his recent visit to Saigon as a member of the Australian Parliamentary Delegation.

2. Departure of U.S. Ambassador Reinhardt for Washington.

Mr. G. Frederick Reinhardt, U.S. Ambassador to Saigon, has been recently nominated Counselor to the State Department, replacing Mr. Douglas MacArthur II, appointed U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo.

On the occasion of his departure a farewell State dinner was given on February 8 by Secretary of State to the Presidency and for Interior and Foreign Secretary ad interim, Mr. Nguyen Huu Chau, which I attended in the name of Minister Choi, who was absent in Seoul.

On February 10, at 12.30, I went to the Saigon Tan Son Nhut airport to wish bon voyage to Ambassador Reinhardt.

3. Korean Boxing and Football Teams invited to visit Vietnam.

In the framework of cultural exchanges, the Vietnam Government wished to invite Korean Boxing and Football Teams to visit Vietnam and participate in friendly matches with the Vietnamese teams. All expenses resulting from travel, food and lodging and subsistence for the Korean teams while in Vietnam will be at the

expense of the Vietnamese Government.

I have transmitted to the Presidents of the respective Korean federations of boxing and football the invitations. This constitutes, I believe, the first athletic exchange between Korea and Free Vietnam, and will not fail to have a favourable echo in the good relationship between the two countries.

4. Publication of Ambassador Ben C. Limb's article on the admission of Korea to the U.N.

Because of the importance and significance of the Korean issue now being discussed at the U.N. General Assembly in New York, I felt it necessary to further arouse public opinion here in support of the Korean cause. And for this reason I republish in the Information Bulletin of this Legation Nos 030 and 031 the article written by Ambassador Limb, both in English and in French.

The bulletins have been distributed to all diplomatic organs and press agencies here. It seems that the article has made a deep impression amongst these circles, and some of the important Saigonese papers, among which the French language weekly paper "La Gazette", have republished it in their papers.

5. Korean Stowaways on board the M/S "Columbia Maru".

An interim cable was sent to the Foreign Ministry reporting briefly on the matter of the two Korean stowaways who were on board the M/S "Columbia Maru" in reply to a cable received from the Foreign Ministry to this Legation giving us certain specific instructions. A full report to the Foreign Ministry will go in today's pouch to Seoul.

Of importance I beg to report to Your Excellency the fact that the two Korean stowaways were not permitted to disembark at Hongkong, and that our Consulate General in Hongkong was unable to be permitted to take the necessary steps to take custody of the stowaways.

Upon my approaching the officials of the Vietnamese