

September 5, 1957
**CDS Report No. 56 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

Citation:

"CDS Report No. 56 from Choi Duk Shin to the President (Syngman Rhee)", September 5, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-332-031, 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/120979>

Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on the Colombo Plan Conference, President Diem's visit to Australia, and recent Vietnamese affairs.

Credits:

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

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT NO. 056

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit this Weekly Report No.056 which will cover the following points:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. Colombo Plan Conference
3. President Ngo-Dinh-Diem's visit to Australia
4. Viet-Nam Affairs
5. Social Activities

1. Receipt of Instructions.

In this week's pouch I received Instruction No.88 dated August 30, 1957, and also two information copies on Japan and "Time" of August 26, 1957 from Your Excellency's office which are much appreciated.

With regard to the Vietnamese President's visit, I hope the two quite different dates, one indicated by the Vietnamese Foreign Minister as between September 25 and October 12, and the latest one definitely wished by the Vietnamese President as the 19th through 21st, will be for his State visit, did not confuse the situation too much. I wish to apologize that the coded cable was garbled and also for forgetting to number it.

As for the reason why I have mentioned to the Vietnamese Foreign Minister the appointment of a new ROV Envoy to our country, is because I had received a letter from our Foreign

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Minister's office in which I was asked to find out whether they have any plan of sending one and what is the reason for such a vacancy.

I attach herewith a copy of this letter for Your Excellency's reference.

2. Colombo Plan Conference.

The Vietnamese Government is engaging in the preparations of Colombo Plan Conference very actively. Last week I wrote a letter to the Foreign Minister to express our thanks as Your Excellency indicated in Instruction No.85. I attach herewith a copy of this letter.

I have received a personal letter from our Ambassador You Chan Young, in which he stated that it would be a very fine idea if I could contact the Ceylon Government officials to convince India and Indonesia to support our membership in the Colombo Plan.

In this connection I would like to make the following recommendation:

The Finance Minister of Ceylon is the proper person to contact. I had a personal communication recently with him, however our letters were only courtesy ones. We did not touch any real official matter. Since Ambassador Young's suggestion is to contact the Ceylonese officials to convince India and Indonesia on this matter, I would like to write a letter to the Finance Minister and also to the Governor General and the Prime Minister if necessary. Since I feel these letters are very important and that I must be most cautious, may I ask to submit the drafts of these letters to Your Excellency's attention to comment on them before I send them to the Ceylonese.

I attach excerpts from Kolisa-57 SP Report No.8 (Trip to Ceylon) and I humbly feel that it may be a good idea to ask Your Excellency to please instruct our Finance Minister Kim, who, I understand, is going to attend a World Bank Conference in U.S.A. to make a personal contact on this matter with the Ceylonese Finance Minister. As far as I know the Ceylonese Finance Minister is going to attend the same meeting and has already left Ceylon to go to U.S.A. via Australia.

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3. President of Viet-Nam visits Australia.

On September first, in the afternoon, the President of Viet-Nam departed under heavy rain for another State visit. Despite the Sunday holiday, all heads of diplomatic corps and Vietnamese dignitaries were present to say "Bon Voyage" to the President. He will return to Saigon on September 10th. However, I collect the numerous dispatches from Australia on his visit and attach them to the newsclippings for reference.

4. Viet-Nam Affairs.

a. Viet-Nam - China relationship.

There was no new development since I last reported on the problem of repatriation of Chinese youngsters born in Viet-Nam but did not wish to become Vietnamese citizens.

There have been several contacts between the Chinese Envoy and high officials of the Vietnamese Government. The most significant one was that the President of Viet-Nam invited the Chinese Envoy to confer with him before he departed for Australia last Sunday. Despite the wishful thinking of Chinese people to solve the problem soon, there was no sign from Vietnamese side to improve it and the Chinese Legation was even forced to make a denial statement on charges of Chinese students returning to Formosa. I attach the full text of the statement to the newsclippings.

Since I should not involve myself in this problem, it is hard for me to find out the behind-the-scene stories and to predict the outcome of this problem. However, I still believe the Nationalist China's position on this problem is an inferior one; on the other hand I hope the Vietnamese Government will avoid to displease most of the anti-Communist Chinese overseas and to hurt the prestige of Nationalist China's Government.

b. Viet-Nam - Japan relationship.

There was no improvement of their relationship in the

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past period. The Japanese Ambassador who has been away since 20 days, has not returned yet. The "reparation" issue still stands as I have reported previously. The Vice-President and Economic Minister Mr. Nguyen-Ngoc-Tho (阮玉善) was Ambassador to Japan before he returned to his country and took the Economic Minister's job. Apparently, his impression of Japan was like most of the Asians who have found the Japanese unfaithful. Some one told me that in order to press the Japanese Government to give in in the "reparation" issue, the Vietnamese Vice-President refused to extend the Japanese visa for longer stay and also strictly restricted to issue entry visa since last year. There is also a report that no more Japanese goods are allowed to be brought in since May of this year.

Despite the above mentioned encouraging information on "Japan", I am sorry to notice that there are still about 150 Japanese living in Saigon since last year. There are also several Japanese who claim they have helped certain high ranking Vietnamese politicians in the past (during French rule) and now they ask reciprocate favours.

All these informations were gathered from unofficial sources. I do not know how true they are, however, I believe these informations could serve as references in watching the development of relationship between Viet-Nam and Japan.

c. A Vietnamese Study Mission will soon visit our country.

On September 3, Dr. Fishel, Chief Advisor of Viet-Nam Advisory Group from Michigan State University, called on me at this Legation and handed me an advanced information copy which I attach to this report. Dr. Fishel promised me to advise the Vietnamese Foreign Minister to make an official approach to this Legation.

This Mission is sponsored and financed by U.S. Operation Mission (U.S.O.M.). The detailed arrangements will be made by Mr. Warn's office in Seoul.

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Dr. Fishel was in our country in the early part of 1953 and he told me that he had the honour to be granted an audience by Your Excellency twice when he was heading a Study Mission for U.S. Army Department.

For Your Excellency's reference, I attach to this report a few documents on this Michigan State University's Viet-Nam Advisory Group.

d. Information on our famous In-Sam.

There is a documentation in Viet-Nam Press on our famous In-Sam which was dispatched by Reuter. I attach this news item to the newsclippings.

5. Social Activities.

a. August 30, at 1730 hours Netherland's Consul General called on me to say "good-bye".

b. August 30, I attended a reception given by General Myers, the Deputy Chief of MAAG.

c. September 1, I attended a dinner party offered by Chinese newspaper men on the occasion of their "Pressmen Day", at which Vietnamese Minister of Information and Youth was also present.

d. September 2, at 1200 hours, Dr. Fishel the Chief of Michigan State University Advisory Group in Viet-Nam called on me.

e. September 2, I attended a dinner offered by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Viet-Nam at which the Vice-President was also present.

f. September 3, at 1000 hours I called on the Chief of Michigan State University Advisory Group.

g. September 3, at 1100 hours, the new Laotian Envoy paid a courtesy call to me after he presented his credentials to the President of Viet-Nam. He was Charge d'Affaires until very recently and he is accredited also as Envoy to the Philippines.

h. September 4, the Commissioner General for Refugee D/V

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Affairs and Land Development invited me at a cocktail party given in honour of Monsignor Swanstrom and Mr. Kinney who are visiting Viet-Nam.

i. September 5, I attended a buffet dinner offered by Mr. and Mrs. Olnick of USOM.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem.

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin
Choi Duk Shin
Minister to Viet-Nam

His Excellency,
President of Republic of Korea.

- Attachments:
1. Copy of a letter from Foreign Minister.
 2. Copy of a letter to ROV Foreign Minister.
 3. Draft letters to Ceylonese Government officials.
 4. Excerpts from Kolisa-57 SP Report No.8 (Trip to Ceylon).
 5. Information on Vietnamese Study Mission to Korea.
 6. Documents on Michigan State University, Viet-Nam Advisory Group.
 7. Newsclippings.
 8. What happened in Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos.