

October 19, 1956
**CDS Report No. 20 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on his audience with President Diem, voices concern about the possibility of Japan being admitted into the United Nations, and briefly discusses recent Vietnamese internal dealings with the Chinese minority, and the possibility of Japanese reparations.

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Friday, October 19, 1956

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CDS REPORT NO. 020

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No. 020 covering the following points:

1. Audience with President Ngo Dinh Diem
2. United Nations - Entry of New Countries
3. Vietnam Affairs
4. Social Activities

1. Audience with President Ngo Dinh Diem.

On October 15th President Ngo Dinh Diem received me at Independence Palace. It was rather unusual that he received me in his working room and not in his reception hall.

Firstly, I conveyed to him the personal greetings of Your Excellency. His Excellency inquired as to the health of Your Excellency and he was very pleased when I told him that Your Excellency was as fine as ever. He then expressed his appreciation of my good words concerning the progress made by Vietnam. Apparently, he had read The Korean Republic, issue of September 20, my statement under the title of "ROK Envoy praises Progress in Vietnam" wherein I had mentioned the progress of Vietnam under the dynamic leadership of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

I then told him that I sought as many opportunities as possible to inform my countrymen of the amazing and tremendous accomplishments attained by the Government of Vietnam during her one year as a New Republic. Further, I stated: "Because the people of the Republic of Korea have learned of your excellent

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record of progress, they themselves have found a new 'hope' and 'courage' from Your Excellency and the people of Vietnam, who are determined to vanguard the freedom and rights of human beings." At the same time I reported to the President the progress we have made in our country in the industrial field and in the work of reconstruction. I also told him how impressive was the performance of our Air Force in the recent Jet Air Show held in Korea.

At the end of our conversation, I made the suggestion that I was of the firm belief that if the two greatest statesmen in the world today, namely, His Excellency Ngo Dinh Diem and Your Excellency would meet and talk person to person, that it would be of great help to the Asian people and to the peace of the world. He then said he was looking forward to going to Korea to see Your Excellency. He gave no indication of any certain period of time, except he asked me which were the coldest months in Korea. I indicated to him that the months of December, January and February are considered the winter season and, therefore, the coldest time of the year. So far as I know, he is going to visit Thailand at the end of this year, which time I understand has been planned since the early part of this year.

Since His Excellency President Ngo Dinh Diem has expressed his desire to visit Your Excellency, I shall carefully watch and seek the proper time to make the recommendation to Your Excellency concerning an invitation to him.

Following my audience with the President on October 15th, I made a statement for publication the next day. The Vietnamese-owned French newspaper "La Gazette" printed the whole text, and newsclipping of which I attach for the information of Your Excellency. 155

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2. UNITED NATIONS - Entry of New Countries.

Although our primary goal is 'Unification' of our country and entry into the United Nations world body is secondary, I feel that while we are seeking the chance to 'March North', still we must seize every opportunity to have a voice in the U.N. Several unfortunately divided countries like the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Vietnam and West Germany, have no voice at all, while very small countries like Laos, Cambodia, Ceylon, etc. have their voices in the U.N.

I personally feel that the 'Enter-UN' movement of our people under the leadership of the National Assembly and the Resolution adopted at the anti-Communist League's meeting in Saigon last month to have an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss, one, Republic of Korea and Republic of Vietnam's entering the Un body, and, two, to bar Red China from entering it, are all very wise movements to support our national policy. We do know that Russia will definitely veto it. However, through active movements we will gain more moral support.

A further and important concern which comes to my mind is the possibility of Japan's entry into the U.N. at this time. So far the one bar to Japan's entry has been Russia's veto. Russia now has already expressed its 'No Veto' of Japan's entry into the U.N. Since one of the main objectives of Hatoyama's trip to Russia is to 'beg' Russia instead of vetoing to give her support, I feel there is not only the possibility of Japan's entry into the U.N., there is also anticipation of possible secret agreements or understandings to harm our rights and those of Free China. A series of behind the scene conferences at the headquarters of the Soviet Communist party by

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Japanese Kono and Russian Communist party leader, may come out with the most harmful result to Free Asia.

The entry of Japan into the U.N. will do as much harm to us as the Communist nations are doing. I humbly recommend we use every means possible to bar it. The feasible possibility to bar it would be to have at least one nation of permanent Security Council member veto it. France and Great Britain will definitely support Japan's entry. So we have to find the possible veto from Free China and possible delaying action from the U.S. I believe we should find many justifications to persuade the Chinese to veto it. The present national policy of Free China is 'anti-Communist and Resist Russia' (反共抗俄). Japan is now negotiating with Russia and trading with Red China to sacrifice the rights of Free China, and it is very possible that the seat for permanent Security Council will pass through to Japan or India after several years. Japan can certainly promise to Russia: one, to denounce Free China and to recognize the Red China regime as China's legal regime; two, to assist Russia to push Red China into the U.N. after Japan gets a voice in it. The Chinese people should be told that the Japanese will pretend to have normal relationship with Free China and will not disclose her bad intentions until they get into the U.N.

Of course, it will be more effective if we can have our best friend, the U.S., to support our idea. However, for some time the U.S. has expressed her willingness to support Japan's entry into the U.N. body. This basic policy will not be changed only because Japan is negotiating with Russia. However, I feel we may find some ways to persuade her to postpone or let her press Japan to clarify her

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secret talks with Russia first. The secret talks will certainly affect the national security of the United States, and for these reasons I believe the U.S. is in a good position to make these requests to Japan before she supports her entry into the U.N.

Of course, the above mentioned matters are not the direct concern of my present duty here. However, I was and still am inspired by the revolutionary spirit of Your Excellency and it thus gives me always courage to think and to act to the benefit of our Nation's cause.

3. Vietnam Affairs.

a. Diplomatic Parley.

As I reported in my previous Report No. 019 a Conference of Heads of Vietnamese Diplomatic Missions abroad was held in Saigon from October 6th to 14th, 1956. The conference ended according to schedule last Sunday with the following resolution:

1. We swear to put forth every capacity and effort to the service of National cause, so that the whole world will be conscious of the vital mission the Republic of Vietnam has been assuming at the outposts;

2. We swear to set forth all our efforts to consolidate the close relations between the Republic of Vietnam and the friendly nations of the Free World;

3. We swear to actively serve the ideal of liberty, democracy and peace;

4. We swear to tighten our ranks behind the President of the Republic and to put our boundless confidence in his clear-sighted leadership."

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The meetings were held behind closed doors. However, from the speech delivered by the President of Vietnam at the opening session - and from which I quote below - we can assume the importance of the conference called.

"..... Specially at the present hour where the "Red" wave threatens to overrun the advanced bulwark of the Free World and first-line position of Vietnam, the friendly nations follow with attention our results as well as our achievements. Our mission, gentlemen, by this fact, takes a particular importance that, I hope, you will not lose sight of during your forthcoming debates to permit us to fix our common guiding line and, at the same time, to improve the working methods so as to adapt them to the evolution of the world, at a turning-point of history which will decide the fate of the whole of mankind".

b. Observance of 26th October.

As I already reported to Your Excellency the date of 26th October of this year will mark the one-year history of the New Republic. This day will be celebrated in a most colorful way. On the same day they will promulgate the draft constitution.

The Government of Vietnam has formally invited General Chung Il Kwon to attend the ceremonies marking this historical day. I am glad to report that General Chung has already accepted this invitation and will arrive on the 23rd of this month. I have accordingly informed the Government of Vietnam.

In view of the importance of this day for the New Republic and in view of the fact that she is one of the most friendly nations

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and is marking the first anniversary of the recognition from both side (the announcement of the mutual recognition was made on 27th October 1955), and also because of the important fact that President Ngo Dinh Diem, according to the Constitution, will automatically be the first President of the New Republic, I humbly recommend that a congratulatory message or telegram be dispatched in the name of Your Excellency.

c. Relationship of Vietnam and China.

I have reported in my previous reports Nos. 016, 017 and 018 the trend of the relationship between Vietnam and Free China. I now further report on the relationship as it now exists since my return to Saigon.

During the period of my absence from Saigon I learned that the Government of Free China made a formal protest to the Government of Vietnam. However, the Government here in Saigon until recently made no attempt to make a reply. The President of Vietnam defined his Government's policy towards Chinese residents as follows:

"1. Concerning nationalization of Chinese. They have enjoyed all rights, now they must perform their duties, which consist not only of paying taxes, but of normal duties. Moreover, with Communists' persistent infiltrations and incitement of Chinese to sabotage, the nationalization of Chinese is not only a favor, but a strengthening of internal security;

2. The economic measure forbidding eleven professions to Chinese is only a means to protect the interests of an independent nation;

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"3. Concerning Chinese schools, the Government cannot let some primary schools become secondary schools without any authorization. Chinese secondary schools may be authorized to open only after complying with required formalities."

Further, the Foreign Minister of Vietnam stated very clearly that the action of nationalization of Chinese-born in Vietnam is an internal problem and that Vietnam does not have to consult with any country on this action by her. This statement seems to have been very strongly worded for the purpose of a reply to the protest made by the Government of Free China.

The Chinese hoped to open the Secondary Schools on October 15th. The day passed, and no Chinese secondary schools have as yet been opened.

The Chinese born in Vietnam are registering with their Vietnamese names as from October 8th.

The news items printed in the Chinese newspapers are that Free China's government will again protest. However, I feel that the firm position taken by the Vietnamese Government will not be changed in any event.

d. Japanese Activities in Vietnam.

Up to the present moment there has been no progress made in the Reparations problem. Japan's stand still is the same as I reported in CDS Report No. 018:

1. Payment of seven or eight million dollars in capital goods and services; (This news item appeared in the Korean Republic dated September 13 and to which Your Excellency referred in Instruction No. 17).
2. Japan's economic cooperation by granting Vietnam 12 to 13 million dollars loans.

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What the Vietnamese want is still between 100 to 200 million US dollars value of Reparations, and it seems that the Vietnamese Government still insist on Reparations first, trade later. However, despite the firm stand taken by Vietnam towards Japanese trade, it seems that Japan is taking a very active part towards their goal to "open trade".

The Japanese economic mission of five members, headed by former Minister of Finance, Okinori Kaya, arrived in Saigon on October 16. They will stay in Vietnam until October 20.

There is also a Japanese lumber-searching team travelling in this country to search for good lumber. Vietnam also produces good lumber.

It has also been learned that Japan's 8,800-ton SS "Idmissho Maru", converted into a floating-display center, will be carrying samples of Japanese industrial production around Southeast Asia. Its first port of call will be Saigon where she is expected by next December 28, and the floating display center will be officially inaugurated in Saigon. Other scheduled calling places for this exhibit will be: Bangkok, Singapore, Rangoon, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Djarkarta and Manila. The visitors will be greeted by Japanese exhibitors in this 450-booth industrial display.

4. Social Activities.

a. October 15. At noon I invited General Dong Van Duc, the Vietnamese Envoy to our country to a luncheon along with General Williams, the Mayor of Saigon, the Commander of the 1st Region besides other distinguished guests. He will depart Saigon on October 19th and I will go to the airport to say Bon Voyage.

The same day in the evening I attended a reception given by the Foreign Minister. After the reception I went to Independence Palace to attend the Presidential dinner party.

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b. October 18. At 1000 hrs I attended the ceremony of the Breeding Station at Tan Son Nhut just outside of Saigon.

The same evening I attended a cocktail party given by the Minister of Reconstruction.

c. October 19. At 1000 hrs Mrs. Choi and I together with members of this Legation attended the ceremony of delivery of 70 tons of rice to flood victims in Korea from the Women's Assistance Association of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces.

The Acting Defense Minister, Mr. Tran Van Doung, represented the President. The Minister of Social and Health Affairs, General Le Van Ty and many ladies from high social circle were also present.

After a brief but solemn ceremony the President's representative guided me to the rice stock. The rice had been packed and stacked in an excellent and orderly way. On each sack of rice there was printed a symbol indicating the cooperation of our two countries.

I value this not only because the 70 tons of rice will assist the victims of the recent flood, but because the expression of solidarity is really very sincere, so pure and so sacred. They made this big donation from their own initiative after learning of the flood disaster in the newspapers.

The President and other high ranking officials often inquire about the flood situation and express much sympathy to us.

The transportation of the 70 tons of rice will be taken care of by the organization itself.

I would like to suggest to the Red Cross of our country that in some way they might reciprocate these grateful donations.

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For example, the white clothes (廣木) are over-produced in our textile factories and many people in Vietnam, especially in villages and mountainous area, are without much to wear and would greatly benefit by such a gift from us.

I attach documents covering this specific donation, such as speeches and program and the report to Foreign Minister to this report for Your Excellency's information.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem,

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin
Choi, Duk Shin
Minister of Korea to Vietnam

His Excellency

President of the Republic of Korea.

Attachments:

1. Report to Foreign Minister concerning rice donation.
2. News Clipping.
3. Photo album.