

July 25, 1956

**CDS Special Report No. 1 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on the miscommunication of an invitation to the Vietnamese Foreign Minister to attend a defense conference in South Korea.

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CDS SPECIAL REPORT NO.01

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency this Special Report No. 01.

I received a telegram from KORPITAL dated July 23, reading as follows:

"URGENTLY CLARIFY UP STATEMENT FROM SAIGON SAYING
QUOTE OUR GOVERNMENT ISSUED INVITATION FOR A DEFENSE
CONFERENCE UNQUOTE TWO".

and immediately upon receipt I made inquiries of the Foreign Ministry and UP correspondent and found that it was not a true fact that the UP in Saigon had dispatched such a statement.

In reply to KORPITAL I sent a message as follows:

"UP SAIGON EMPHATICALLY AND ABSOLUTELY DENIES HAVING
ISSUED STATEMENT ON INVITATION FOR A DEFENSE CONFERENCE
STOP LETTER FOLLOWS."

That same day I summoned to the Legation the UP correspondent in Saigon, Mr. Kaff, and I asked him if he had any knowledge of the Vietnamese Foreign Minister going to Korea at the same time as Dr. George Ye of China's visit. He said "no". He added, however, that he had read a dispatch from Taipei UP stating that a Chinese newspaper had made the speculation that it was probable that the Foreign Minister of Vietnam would be invited to Korea on the same occasion. Actually, the Taipei UP merely quoted the Chinese newspaper's speculation. I asked him whether he could give me the UP dispatch from Taipei, but he said he was sorry it was not available. The Taipei UP dispatch cannot be confirmed here in Saigon.

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It is my firm belief that Mr. Kaff, the UP correspondent in Saigon, would not be so unwise as to make such a statement without first confirming with the Foreign Ministry of Vietnam and our Legation here in Saigon.

However, yesterday, I found the AFP correspondent in Saigon, Mr. Daynard, did wire a dispatch as shown on Attachment (a). Yesterday before noon, I read the announcement of Acting Foreign Minister Cho, Attachment (b). Yesterday afternoon, the Government of Vietnam made a statement as follows:

"The announcement that Mr. Vu Van Mau, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will leave for Seoul on August 15, is devoid of foundation, authoritative sources said today."

This morning at 0930 I made a call on Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vu Van Mau. He assured me that up until now he had not heard anything, nor received any report on this subject from the Minister of Vietnam to Korea, General Duong Van Duc. He said he would naturally have consulted with me if he had had any knowledge of such an invitation.

Consequently, my idea is that some people, hostile to the friendship which exists between Vietnam, China and Korea, are desperately trying to sabotage the good relations of the three countries. Another suggestion is that some newsmen are trying to find out the opinion of the interested nations on military alliances. They dispatch news from their own imagination in order to personally reap eventual reactions. Thirdly, there is the simplest reason and that is the newsman's love of big, sensational information. They

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hunt for such news and in case of lack of news they invent and issue controversial rumours. But this time, they have failed in their aim.

Please be assured, Your Excellency, that in Saigon this fanciful rumour has obtained neither reaction nor echo. I sincerely trust that this report will clarify the matter for you from this end.

With sentiments of highest loyalty and esteem,

Respectfully,



Choi, Duk Shin
Minister of Korea to Vietnam

His Excellency

The President of the Republic of Korea.

Attachments (a) and (b).