

July 26, 1956

**Letter No. 7 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to
Minister Duk Shin Choi**

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Summary:

President Rhee briefly discusses the current situation in Southeast Asia.

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#7

To: Minister Duk Shin Choi

From: The President

I am in receipt of your report No.010 dated July 19 and enclosed copies of documents exchanged with the delegation of Laos in Saigon.

I am very happy to learn that you think the progress and improvements made in Vietnam during the last two years have enabled the government to stand on a firm base and that the people are absolutely anti-communist.

It is also good to know the government will take strong measures against those who express pro-communist views. I am sure the Vietnam government realizes that unless it enforces a rigid control over public opinion it will be very difficult for the people to maintain their independence.

We read in the papers how the surrounding states of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand are dealing with communists. The Cambodian prime minister's latest visit to Russia has naturally put Cambodia under the shadow of Red China. The infiltration tactics of the communists are such that none of these nations will be able to hold very long.

I am glad you gave a cocktail party for some of the people who had previous connections with Korea. I know they all enjoyed meeting old friends.

With regard to the promotion of your ^{secretary} ~~assistant~~ I will refer it to the Foreign Ministry. If nothing stands in the way I hope the Ministry will see the possibility of promoting him to the rank which you suggested so that he can be invited to diplomatic functions.

cc: Cho

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