

July 6, 1956
**CDS Report No. 8 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on his involvement in recent ceremonies as well as his discussion with Vietnamese Secretary of State for Agrarian Reform Ngyuyen Van Thoi about possible Vietnam-Korea trade.

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Friday, July 6, 1956

CDS REPORT NO. 008

CONFIDENTIAL.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No. 008 covering the following points:

- 1) Receipt of Your Excellency's instructions
- 2) Ceremonies
- 3) Observation of Independence Day of the U.S. and the Philippines
- 4) Anniversary of President Ngo Dinh Diem
- 5) Courtesy and Return calls
- 6) Attachments

1. On Monday, July 2 I received from Your Excellency Instruction Paper No. 3 dated June 28, 1956 in which Your Excellency advised me of the policy of our government concerning formal invitations to Inauguration Ceremonies.

In the same pouch was an instruction paper issued by Your Excellency's secretary, Mr. Ku Boen-Juen, by order of Your Excellency, written in Korean and addressed to the Ambassador to China, Minister to the Philippines and to me concerning the matter of the Military Alliance.

I am always ready to comply with the instructions of Your Excellency and will heed them accordingly.

May I at this time express to Your Excellency my feelings concerning the appointment with which Your Excellency honored me in the diplomatic field.

I find my duties in this field important and interesting and feel they actually began when you honored me by appointing me as a

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as a member of the Korean Delegation to United Nations General Assembly in 1953. I deeply appreciate your faith in me and your guidance in my responsibilities. In carrying out these responsibilities, Your Excellency, I feel there are many things which I still must learn and in order to perform my duties as a diplomat I am endeavouring to

- 1) further my knowledge of English
- 2) read and study material which will assist me in the performance of my duties.

Again I would like to express to Your Excellency my assurance that I am honoured to perform these duties for my country.

2. Ceremonies.

This week has been a busy one there having been two important Vietnamese ceremonies and the observation of the U.S. Independence Day and the Independence Day of the Philippines.

a. On Sunday, July 1 I attended, as a member of the Diplomatic Corps, the opening ceremony of the Second National Congress of Vietnamese Veterans. I am unhappy to advise Your Excellency that as Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, in the absence of the British Ambassador, that the Japanese Ambassador, Konagaya, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I do not feel that the people of Vietnam and Government Officials were happy about this either, but as Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps his position must be accepted as such. Whenever I have the opportunity to speak of the menace of Communism, I also try to warn of the danger of Japan. In this connection I attach for the interest of Your Excellency UP correspondent Mr. Kaff's dispatch.

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b. On Tuesday, July 3 I attended the ceremony on the occasion of the laying of the corner-stone for the National Library and Cultural Center by His Excellency the President, Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem.

3. Observation of Independence Day of the U.S. and the Philippines.

a. On Wednesday, July 4 on the occasion of Independence Day of the United States, Ambassador and Mrs. Reinhardt received the Members of the Diplomatic Corps and high Government Officials at their Residence at twelve o'clock noon at a reception. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vo Van Mau represented His Excellency the President of Vietnam.

I chatted with General Williams quite a while. He again expressed his love of Korea and his desire to serve the last part of his military career there. (He has three more years of active service). He said this seriously and sincerely. He is a good friend of Korea.

I noticed that General Williams and others in the U.S. Army who had served in Korea were proudly wearing ribbons of the decorations or citations presented to them by Your Excellency.

b. At six o'clock on the same day in honor of Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines, Mr. Ezpeleta, the Philippine Minister gave a reception, which I attended.

4. Anniversary of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

On Saturday, July 7 will be a most important ceremony when the Vietnamese people will celebrate the completion of the second year in office of His Excellency President Ngo Dinh Diem.

In a previous report to Your Excellency I mentioned that President Diem was appointed on June 16, 1954, while he was still in America, the Premier of Vietnam under the Bai Dao Regime of Vietnam. He officially took this office on July 7, 1954.

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In order that our Government may send a Congratulatory Message from Your Excellency, I already reported this ceremony to our Acting Foreign Minister, Dr. Cho, in last week's pouch and yesterday I received the following telegram from Dr. Cho:

"Please transmit the following to Foreign Minister Vu Van Mau quote on behalf of the Korean Government I cordially extend through you to His Excellency President Ngo Dinh Diem my sincere congratulations on the happy occasion of the second anniversary of His Excellency's Presidential Inauguration. May there be firm establishment of democracy and prosperity in the new Republic of Vietnam under his inspiring leadership."

and this morning I made a call to the Foreign Minister of Vietnam and presented the message in the following form:

"Excellency,

" I have the honour to transmit to you the following cabled message which our Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Chung W. Cho, has charged me to convey to you:

"On behalf of the Korean Government I cordially extend through you to His Excellency President Ngo Dinh Diem my sincere congratulations on the happy occasion of the 2nd Anniversary of His Excellency's Presidential Inauguration. May there be firm establishment of democracy and prosperity in the new Republic of Vietnam under his inspiring leadership.

" Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."

5. Courtesy and Return Calls.

During this week I made the following courtesy calls:

Mr. Nguyen Van Thoi, Secretary of State for Agrarian Reform
Mr. Nguyen Cong Viean, Secretary of State for Agriculture
Mr. Tran Huu Phuong, Secretary of State for Finance
Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Tho, Secretary of State for Economy

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The above officials of the Cabinet fall within the Economic category.

A return call was made by the Secretary of State for National Education, Mr. Nguyen Duong Don.

I feel that the essence of my talk with Mr. Tho, Secretary of State for Economy, is worthwhile relating for the information of Your Excellency as follows:

Since I have not received any instruction from Your Excellency on the matter of 'trade', I did not intend to open any discussion concerning economics or trade with them. However, Secretary Tho raised the question of the possibilities of trade between Korea and Vietnam. He suggested that in order to exchange first hand information holding an exhibition of products. He also praised the Korean In-Sham (高麗人蔘) as best qualified, and was sorry to say that it has scarcely any true Korean In-Sham here in Vietnam. It seems that this is the only thing about which the Japanese could not deceive foreigners concerning Korea.

Taking this opportunity of talking with the man who is in charge of trade and who appeared interested in discussing this matter, I talked with Secretary Tho mainly along the lines of Your Excellency's instructions dated April 18, 1956, which I received at the airport just before my departure from Seoul stating that:

- a. We are opposed to making Japan the industrial supplier of Asian Nations, that the aid extended to Asian countries and spent in Japan will benefit Japan and not the supposed beneficiaries.
- b. The Asians will oppose those who wish to make Japan the master.

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/c. Japan must be

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- c. Japan must be kept at level with other Asian nations, militarily and economically.
- d. Japan's trade with Communist countries is certainly pro-Communist and gradually entering the Red camp.
- e. There should be "Industrialization of all Asian countries and cooperative exchange of goods for prosperity of all".

He agreed with all these points.

I will report on the 'trade' situation of this country more at a later date.

6. Attachments.

To supplement this Report No. 008 I attach herewith photographs and Vietnamese newspaper clippings.

In this connection I am very glad to report to Your Excellency that the Vietnamese Press Bulletin has begun to adopt materials from our News Bulletins and the daily paper "The Korean Republic". We are making friends in the Vietnamese Press with the materials which we get weekly from Seoul and which are proving so valuable.

I wish to advise, Your Excellency, that recently the Vietnamese Press in its bulletin used for the first time the entire text of our editorials concerning the NNSC.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and esteem,

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin

Choi, Duk Shin
Minister of the Republic of Korea.

His Excellency

President of the Republic of Korea.

Attachments: 1. Photographs
2. Newspaper clippings
3. News Round-Up No. 0004.

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