

May 17, 1957

**CDS Report No. 40 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

Citation:

"CDS Report No. 40 from Choi Duk Shin to the President (Syngman Rhee)", May 17, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-330-032, 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.
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Summary:

Choi describes his tour of Southeast Asia as "a successful one," reports on a visit to Vietnam by a South Korean Navy Observation Squadron, and indicates that he will postpone a planned visit to Taiwan.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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CONFIDENTIAL.

CDS REPORT NO.040

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No.040 which follows my Report No.039 dated March 27, 1957, covering the following points:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. Termination of the Goodwill Tour of Southeast Asian Countries
3. Activities and Departure of the Visiting ROK Navy Observation Squadron
4. Postponement of the Projected Visit to Formosa

1. Receipt of Instructions.

During the past period I have received Your Excellency's Instructions from No.52 through No.60. I have to admit that I unintentionally made some mistakes in my talks with the Laotian people. Nevertheless, I assure Your Excellency that I found myself during my continuing tour and did not make the same mistake. Again I would ask the pardon of Your Excellency for this mistake.

2. Termination of the Goodwill Tour of Southeast Asian Countries.

I returned to Saigon late in the afternoon of May 14, 1957, from Bangkok, Thailand, the final stage of my goodwill tour of Southeast Asian countries. The tour lasted more than one and a half months. The details of this tour will be submitted soon to Your Excellency in separate special reports. With this report I can only submit my report on Cambodia. I hope by next pouch I can submit most of the separate reports which are now in draft form and the final report will be carried by myself and submitted to Your Excellency personally.

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In general, I can say that the mission has been a successful one and that the success was only made possible because of the precious instructions given to me by Your Excellency when I was last in Seoul.

I had planned to leave Saigon on May 17 for Seoul to report the results of this trip to Your Excellency. However, upon my return I learned from Mr. Sohn of the most important matter which I should carry by myself. When I called on Mr. Vu Van Mau, Foreign Minister of Vietnam, he told me that his President will be back on the 23rd of this month and he further advised me it would be better for me to see his President before I depart for Seoul. Accordingly, I have cabled Your Excellency reading as follows:

"KORPITAL
SEOUL

"14IL SAIGON DOCHAKHAM OIMBUBU CHANGGWANBUL BANGMOONHAM
PD ODAITONGRYUNG EUN 23IL SAIGON DOCHAK YECHUNIM ODAITON-
GRYUNG EUL MANNAKO KWIKUKHAYUDO MOOBANG HAOLCHI WHAIHOO-
MANGMANG HANAIDA PD CHOCHUNGJANG KEUBSOK BALSONG BARANAIDA

KOLISACHOI"

I am also awaiting the invitation letter in question so that I may transmit it into the hands of President Diem before departing.

As for my two assistants in the mission, Mr. Chang and Captain Lee, they will leave on May 17 and are expected to arrive in Seoul on May 20. Both these assistants did very good work during the trip.

As for the financial report it will be finalized by my assistant, Mr. Chang, after he arrives in Seoul. However, I

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would beg Your Excellency's attention to the fact that we had to extend the number of days of our trip from 35 days (as the expense paper stated) to 51 days for myself and to 67 days for both assistants who came from Seoul to Saigon. This matter has been reported to Foreign Minister in a letter dated April 21, 1957.

3. Activities and Departure of the Visiting ROK Navy Observation Squadron.

After completing a four-day visit to Free Vietnam, the ROK Navy Observation Squadron, under the command of Commodore Chang Whon Kim, left Saigon on Tuesday, May 14, 1957, at 1100 hours for Formosa, on its training cruise.

Aside from the reception given by this Legation in honor of the ROK Navy and the one offered by themselves on board the "P.F.66", Commodore Kim and his officers attended various parties arranged in their honour here in Saigon,

The visiting naval officers also laid a wreath at the Memorial Temple in the Botanical Gardens in Saigon. They called on high personalities and visited the Dalat Military Academy and the Nhatrang Naval Training Center. The parades, concerts and spectacular demonstrations they gave here have created a very welcoming atmosphere among the Vietnamese public whose knowledge of Korea seems to grow more and more each day. Their performance here was highly praised.

4. Postponement of the projected visit to Formosa.

Instructions have been received that I should pass through Formosa on my way back to Seoul. But because of the naturalization law enacted by the Vietnamese Government a very tense and delicate atmosphere has been created between Vietnam and Formosa. Therefore in my opinion I consider it would not be advisable for me

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for me to visit Taipei on this trip and with Your Excellency's permission I may visit Formosa on the way back from Seoul to Saigon or seek some other opportunity.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem,

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin

Choi, Duk Shin
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of Republic of Korea to Vietnam

His Excellency

President of Republic of Korea.

Attachments: Kolisa 57 Rp Report No.3
Trip to Cambodia.