

**March 27, 1957**  
**CDS Report No. 39 from Choi Duk Shin to the  
President (Syngman Rhee)**

**Citation:**

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/120915>

**Summary:**

Choi reports that he will soon visit Cambodia. He also describes a celebration held in honor of Syngman Rhee's birthday.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT No.039

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No.038 covering the following points:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. Arrival of APACL Delegation
3. Birthday Celebration of Your Excellency
4. Goodwill Tour - Visit to Cambodia

1. Receipt of Instructions.

In the last pouch I received Instruction No.51 which is in acknowledgment of my Report No.036 and 037. It would appear there is an apparent misinterpretation of my report on the matter of attendance of the Vietnamese Observer to the SEATO Conference in Canberra. The Foreign Minister did not attend the conference, but the Director of Cabinet of Defense Department, attended the conference. This misunderstanding was caused by the fact of my mentioning the matter under Item 3 (b) Foreign Minister of Vietnam returns to Saigon. I humbly ask Your Excellency to accept my apology for this misunderstanding having occurred.

2. Arrival of APACL Delegation.

Our APACL six man delegation to the Third General Conference arrived in Saigon on Sunday last, March 24. They were most cordially met by the responsible officers of the Vietnam Chapter of APACL and the members of this Legation.

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At 0900 on Wednesday, March 27, the inaugural session was officially opened at the Saigon City Hall. Many Vietnamese officials and foreign dignitaries were present to observe the ceremony. I was amongst the invited.

The details of the APACL events I hope will be reported by APACL delegation itself.

On the evening of March 25, Mrs. Choi and I invited all members of the APACL Delegation to a dinner at our Chancery. After the dinner, we had a showing of the movie "Our President" and other movies and news reels in our garden.

3. Birthday Celebration of Your Excellency.

On March 26, the 82nd anniversary of the birthday of Your Excellency, was more splendidly celebrated because of the arrival of our delegation to the APACL Conference last Sunday. At 1000 hrs that day the full delegation of the APACL members called on me at this Chancery. We toasted the health of Your Excellency in front of the picture of Your Excellency which hangs in the large Reception Room.

On the evening of the birthday of Your Excellency at 1830 we invited more than four hundred persons consisting of Vietnamese Government officials, Foreign Minister and all Cabinet members, members of the diplomatic corps and other distinguished guests.

The assembly of guests was made even more distinguished by the presence of the representative of the President, the Vice President.

All APACL delegates from the various countries were also included in the list of invitations.

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The Legation and the garden had never looked more beautiful and attractive. During the last three months the garden has been completely brought into good condition. The trees had been trimmed; the weeds extracted, and the flowers are now in abundance. The garden was lighted by a variety of coloured lights strung from the trees and other decorations. The road curving from the entrance to the exit gates has been completely paved. It was formerly large stones and sand. The cars with ease were able to drive in, the guests alighting at the front of the residence, and then the cars depart.

The guests greeted Mrs. Choi and me and the members of the Legation with felicitations on the occasion of the anniversary of the birthday of Your Excellency. After the toast to Your Excellency, we showed the movie "Our President" to the guests and it was received by them with much enthusiasm.

I and the members of my Legation are indeed proud of our new residence and chancery, and there were many complimentary remarks made about our new location.

Several Chinese newspapers shared in the congratulations in their editorials on this day.

4. Goodwill Tour - Visit to Cambodia.

As reported in my last report, I am making my trip to Cambodia from March 28 to March 31. I will continue my trip to the other countries as scheduled.

With this report, I am submitting KOLIS A-57 Sp Report No. 2 - Trip to Laos.

At the end of this report may I beg pardon to make mention to Your Excellency a personal matter. It was generous on the part of Your Excellency to permit my wife and youngest child to



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come and join me here in July of last year. My wife now desires to make a trip home to Seoul during my absence from Saigon. My mother who is now quite old and our other four children are living in Seoul. My wife is concerned about their well-being; their schooling and our home, and feels that she would prefer to be with them at home while I am absent on my trip and will return to Saigon in two to three months.

I again ask pardon for bringing this small personal matter to Your Excellency for consideration.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem,

Respectfully,

*Choi Duk Shin*

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

His Excellency

President of Republic of Korea.

Attachments: Kolisa-57 Special Report No.2,  
Trip to Laos.

Newsclipping and photo album.