

April 3, 1957
Weekly Report from Pyung Sik Son to the President
(Syngman Rhee)

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Summary:

A weekly report from Pyung Sik Son, reporting on a meeting of the International Women's Association as well as a Korean anti-communist delegation visiting Vietnam.

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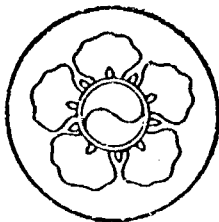
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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
S A I G O N

Saigon, April 3, 1957

Excellency,

In the absence of Minister Choi, who is presently absent from Saigon conducting a goodwill tour of the Southeast Asia countries, I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency a brief resume of events which have occurred during the last week in Vietnam as follows:

1. Goodwill tour to Cambodia
2. International Women's Association meeting
3. Korean Anti-Communist Exhibit Group's arrival
4. Distribution of Korean relief items

I. Goodwill tour to Cambodia.

On March 28, 1957 Minister Choi, assisted by Foreign Ministry's Mr. Chang and Defense Ministry's Captain Lee, proceeded to Cambodia on their planned goodwill tour of that country. The visit lasted until March 30 when the party returned to Saigon.

Minister Choi revealed that the Cambodian Government underwent an overthrowing just on the day of his arrival. However, in spite of this occurrence, his party was given a most cordial welcome and he was able to see the important personalities of the country.

A more detailed report of the goodwill trip to Cambodia will be submitted upon the return of Minister Choi to Saigon.

2. International Women's Association meeting.

The International Women's Association is a group of some 350 members of women of all nationalities in Saigon which was commenced a year ago January with ten members. It is an association whose aim is to

exchange ideas of culture of the countries of the respective members. Each month the program is conducted by a different member country.

Because of the fact that the Korean Artist's Mission was to have been in Saigon during the last week of March, Mrs. Choi agreed to have the meeting at this Legation to view the exhibit and hear the music of the symphony Orchestra, and serve refreshments of Korea. Therefore, March was declared the Korean month of the program, and the association was invited to the Legation. It was also the regular annual meeting of the Association and election of officers and adoption of its first constitution - a very important meeting.

Unfortunately, the Artists Mission and the Symphony Orchestra did not arrive in Saigon in time for the meeting, but the Association met at the Legation, held its meeting and enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Choi and the Legation garden. Korean music was played throughout the meeting.

3. Korean Anti-Communist Exhibit Group's arrival.

Upon receipt by this Legation of the cable advising of the arrival of the Exhibit group, immediate contact was made with the Vietnamese Defense Department's Director of Cabinet and request was made for:

- a) granting of landing authorization for two ROKAF aircrafts which would bring in the Exhibit group;
- b) board and lodging of the Exhibit group, comprised of 45 military personnel during its stay in Saigon, to avoid further unnecessary expenditures;
- c) transportation facilities for the Exhibit group.

Our request was almost immediately granted and the Director of Cabinet kindly promised to extend all facilities possible to the visiting Korean Group.

The two ROKAF aircrafts, C.46 N°. 44-77966 and C.46 N°. 44-77547, landed at Tan Son Nhut airport at 16.00 hrs on Wednesday April 3, with a 24-hour delay due to technical difficulties in Manila. The group of 45 members was met by the Vietnamese and Korean APACL Delegation and the Legation's staff, and were then conducted in military cars to the Officers' Bilets and Mess where the ROK officers will live during the period of the exhibit and their stay in Saigon.

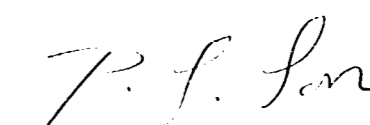
4. Distribution of Korean Relief Items.

Following the arrival of 12,000 yards of cotton yarn from Korea representing a Korean National Red Cross donation, the Vietnamese had organized a ceremony to distribute these relief items to the needy victims. The distribution took place on Sunday, March 31, at Tam-hiep and Phuoc-Ly villages located in Bienhoa province about 35 kilometers from Saigon.

I attended this ceremony representing Minister Choi. The Korean cotton yarn was distributed at the same time as other relief supplies to them any refugees from the North and now resettled in the said villages. The distribution was very simply handled and the ceremony ended at 12.30 p.m.

I have the honour to be, with deepest respect,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,



Pyung Sik Son
First Secretary
Korean Legation in Saigon.

His Excellency
President of Republic of Korea