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February 22, 1957
**CDS Report No. 34 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on his trip to Ryukyu and an attempted assassination of President Diem.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT NO.034

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No.034 which follows my Report No.033 dated January 25, 1957, covering the following points:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. Trip to RyuKyu - Kolisa-57 Special Report No.01.
3. Vietnam Affairs: Accompanying the President to attend the Banmethuot Economic Fair's Inauguration Ceremony
4. Proposed trip to Southeast Asia.

1. Receipt of Instructions:

On January 26, 1957 just after my last report was dispatched, I received Your Excellency's telegram as follows:

"YOU ARE AUTHORIZED RETURN KOREA PRIVATE AFFAIRS
ADVISE WHEN YOU WILL ARRIVE ONE"

KORPITAL"

Upon receipt of this telegram arrangements could have been made for me to depart the next day (Sunday) and I would have arrived in Seoul on Monday, January 28. Because of the fact that arrangements had been finalized for me to visit Caisan on Monday, January 28 in the company of the Commissioner General for Refugees and other Vietnamese officials, I hesitated to cancel this important visit. Also on that same evening (Monday) I was host at a dinner at the Legation to which I had invited the Chinese Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Un Kai Chiang, who is due to leave very soon.

276

-2-

Therefore, my flight to Seoul was arranged for Tuesday, January 29, placing my arrival in Seoul on Thursday, January 30. I would ask Your Excellency to please accept my humble apologies for the delay of three days in arriving in Seoul.

Instruction paper No. 41 dated January 17, 1957, received in Seoul.

Upon my return from Korea on February 19 I received the following instruction papers:

Instruction No. 42 which is an acknowledgment of my Report No. 032. Instruction No. 43 enclosing the KOREA CORRESPONDENT No. 70. Instruction No. 44 is an acknowledgment of receipt of my Report No. 033.

I also received instruction paper from the Office of the President to all representatives abroad advising that Colonel Dean Hess's book "BATTLE HYMN" will be sent.

2. Trip to RyuKyu:

Kolisa-57 Special Report No. 01 dated February 22 on my trip to RyuKyu is submitted with this report.

3. Vietnam Affairs:

Mrs. Choi and I were invited by the President of the Republic of Vietnam to attend the inauguration of the Banmethuot Economic Fair on February 22, 1957, and also to attend on the same day the opening of the 1957 hunting season at Banmethuot.

Invited guests left by airplane from Tan Son Nhut airport for Banmethuot at 0600 hrs arriving at Banmethuot at 0800. At 0830 the President arrived at the Fair and after full military honors His Excellency opened the Fair. It was a full day of ceremonies.

277

-3-

A most unfortunate incident occurred at the beginning of the ceremony. At 0830 it was announced that the President would arrive. All guests rose from their seats, the President mounted the rostrum and immediately a shot was fired. The Secretary of State for Agrarian Reform who was in charge of the day's activities immediately followed the President. The bullet had wounded the Secretary of State. He was given immediate medical service and was taken away to the hospital. The police caught the man who fired the shot and a few suspects. The unquietness passed in several minutes and the ceremonies were resumed and the program ran very smoothly.

The result of the investigation is as yet unknown. Somebody says it was committed by either the Communists or the old feudalists whose purpose was assassination of the President. It is also reported that it was merely an unintentional accident. In any event it was a bad incident and it is indeed fortunate that the President was not hurt. The wound of the said Secretary of State is not serious.

We returned to Saigon by air at 1700 hours after a full-day restless tour of that mountainous area.

4. Proposed trip to Southeast Asia:

On February 19, 1957 I received a telegram from FORMIN saying:

"DO YOU WANT CAPTAIN LEE KIJOO AS YOUR ASSISTANT
QUESTION MARK REPLY IMMEDIATELY. HOW SOON WILL
YOU START TOUR PP WHEN YOU ARE READY YOUR ASSIST-
ANTS INCLUDING ONE FROM OIMOO BOO will be sent to
YOU."

238

-4-

The next day I replied by telegram saying that concerning the said Captain Lee Ki Joo's question is "Yes". As far as my readiness for the trip is concerned my reply was that we need about one week or more after the arrival of the assistants in Saigon due to necessary procedural matters.

With sentiments of highest loyalty and highest esteem.

Respectfully,



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

His Excellency

President of Republic of Korea.

Attachment: Kolisa-57 Special Report No.01
Trip to RyuKyu.