

December 13, 1956
**CDS Report No. 28 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on his concern about Japan's possible entry into the United Nations, anti-Communist strategies, and recent South Vietnamese affairs.

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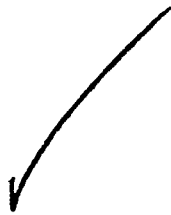
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December 13, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL

GDS REPORT NO. 028.

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No. 028 covering the following points:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. United Nations - Entry of New Countries
3. View on the present world situation and my humble suggestions
4. Gift from President of Republic of Vietnam
5. Vietnam Affairs
6. Social Activities

1. Receipt of Instructions.

In the last diplomatic pouch I received Instructions Nos. 32 and 33: Enclosed with No. 32 was THE KOREA CORRESPONDENT No. 66, and in No. 33 Your Excellency acknowledged receipt of my Report No. 026.

a. A note from the Office of Your Excellency addressed to all representatives abroad was received in the same pouch. I will report as soon as the book "The Enemy at His Back" reaches me.

b. On the evening of December 10th I received a coded telegram from FORMIN which read:

"REGARDING JOINT MESSAGE FOR HUNGARY'S CAUSE CMA YOU ARE ADVISED TO INFORM SAIGON GOVERNMENT OF THIS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO DISPATCH SAID MESSAGE DUE TO UNSATISFACTORY REPLIES OF GOVERNMENTS ORIGINALLY INVITED TO SIGN PD"

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The next day I orally informed the Foreign Ministry of its contents.

On the evening of December 13th I received a telegram from KORPITAL which read:

"POUCH DID NOT ARRIVE AS SCHEDULED SEVEN KORPITAL"

I found this delay is not the fault of airlines here in Saigon. The delay may have occurred in Tokyo during the removal from the plane "Air France" to the "Northwest Airline". Air France here in Saigon assured us that the last pouch was dispatched on schedule.

2. United Nations - Entry of New Countries.

I was shocked when I read the news dispatch stating that the U.N. Security Council has unanimously adopted the resolution recommending Japan for admission to the U.N.

This dispatch makes me wonder just how tricky is the Japanese diplomacy and also how unwise are the Western statesmen, especially the Americans and the Chinese. Immediately after Nationalist China exhausted the only "Ace-card" (veto power in UN Security Council), the Diet of Japan passed a resolution to increase trade with Red China and one paper states that 'Japan has in fact recognized two Chinas'. This item undoubtedly has already been reported to Your Excellency.

It is really a great loss of morale and is one of the greatest errors in diplomacy by Nationalist China in permitting the entry of Japan into the U.N. without inquiring as to Japan's intention toward Red China and without getting the written assurance of Japan concerning her policy toward "Free China".

If Japan were a friendly nation to us, I would not and should not be disturbed. However, since Japan is still an unfriendly nation and will always be a potential enemy, it is with much concern that I see her gain entrance to the U.N. prior to us.

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That a nation like Japan which still has out-moded imperialistic elements ruling it is permitted to enter the U.N. body seems to bring great shame to the purpose of the U.N. Charter.

I would have preferred to see that the occupation forces of America had educated the Japanese people at least one generation before giving them their independence. This would have been to the benefit of the world and also to the future of Japan.

It is also of greater shame for the U.N. body to bar our admission. I trust that our Delegation headed by Dr. You Chan Yang will do its utmost to carry out the instructions of Your Excellency concerning the entry of our country to the U.N.

It is morally wrong for the United States and Nationalist China not to make the utmost efforts on this grave problem. The fact of the temporal divisions, which was not through any fault of ours, cannot be a just reason for our being barred in the matter of entry to the U.N.

It is my everyday prayer that God will help us to unify our country and that we will be unanimously recognized by the whole world.

3. View on the present world situation and my humble suggestions.

This again is the time to beg Your Excellency's wisdom to lead us in improving the present world situation. Your idea of organizing the anti-Communist crusade is being echoed, though it is slow and gradual. U.S. Senator Knowland, with whom I have been acquainted and have been in communication since 1953, is the one who speaks out very clearly and strongly saying to organize "the crusade of Free people". President Eisenhower himself has called on the people of the Western nations to oppose "in word and deed" the Soviet oppression of Hungary. Although he did not

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in direct words propose an armed revolt in the Satellite nations, he made his most sympathetic statement of "horror and revulsion" on the recent outbreak of brutality in Hungary.

Action at this time should be quick, but contemplated. In order to serve Your Excellency in the formulating of plans for the world anti-Communist crusade and in order that we in our country may have a true knowledge of the graveness and seriousness of the world picture, especially Europe, I feel it is necessary to dispatch an envoy to the troubled areas to find out the facts and report the real story.

If Your Excellency will permit me I would like to present the ground plan for this trip as follows:

- A. The trip will be a round-the-world one which would start from Seoul, or any place designated, and end in Seoul.
- B. The countries to be visited and the missions listed as follow:
 - i) TURKEY.
 - a. to view the situation and confusion in the Middle East
 - b. to find out the menace of Russia toward the Middle East
 - ii) AUSTRIA.
 - a. to look into the "Hungary" situation
 - b. to view the general unrests behind the Iron Curtain
 - iii) WEST GERMANY. (Bonn, Munich)
 - a. to view anti-Communist organizations of Free Europe and its activities
 - b. to survey the industrial field of West Germany
 - c. to examine the military strength of West Germany
 - d. to visit the Consulate
 - iv) FRANCE.
 - a. to study NATO
 - b. to visit the Legation in Paris

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c. to view the general situation in Europe

v) UNITED KINGDOM.

a. to study the sentiments of Great Britain on the present world conflict and find out her opinions for solving them

b. to visit the Legation in London

vi) UNITED STATES.

a. private talks with important figures in Washington especially in the State Department

b. to find out general sentiments of the American people toward us

c. to tell the American people and their important officials the true facts and real thinking of the people in Asia, particularly, and other under-developed areas in general

d. to tell them the true story behind the Iron Curtain which will be learned during the trip to Europe.

The duration of this trip will be about, or less than, three months. If the proposed trip could commence in the early part of January 1957, it would end about the latter part of March, 1957.

I believe I could be available for this trip as the early part of the new year I do not think will be a busy time in Vietnam and if I were to be absent during this period it would not greatly interfere with my normal activities here.

The above proposed trip is my humble suggestion for Your Excellency's consideration in these grave days.

4. Gift from the President of Republic of Vietnam.

On the evening of December 12, I received a gift from the President of Vietnam. It was a piece of a fish called the "Bong Mu" and was caught in the Phu Quoc Island coast area on December 11. It is a rare specimen for its kind in South Vietnam waters. Its weight

was 120 kgs (or 240 lbs) and its length 1m90.

I have written a letter of thanks to His Excellency, the President of Vietnam.

5. Vietnam Affairs.

a. It is reported that Mr. Nguyen Huu Chau, Secretary of State for the Presidency and for the Interior, returned to Saigon today, December 13th, from his trip to New Zealand.

b. The Secretary of State for National Economy is touring the Central and Northern part of Free Vietnam controlled areas to find out the present economic situations in these areas and the possibilities of "industrialization".

c. The officer in charge of Chinese affairs in the President's office is touring the overseas Chinese populated towns to take educational measures in an effort to advise the Chinese-born in Vietnam to integrate into Vietnamese citizenship.

d. The President of Vietnam has just issued a decree bearing the promotions in the ranks of general officers.

The Chief of the General Staff, 3-Star General Le van Ty, is promoted to a 4-Star General. This is the highest rank in the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces.

There are also five 2-Star Generals promoted to 3-Star and one colonel rank officer promoted to a 2-Star General.

e. The Director General of National Police of Security Forces, formerly occupied by one of the 2-Star Generals on active duty, has resigned and a colonel (an active Army officer) has been named successor as Chief of Police.

6. Social Activities.

a. December 7. At 1600 hrs I was at the airport to say "Bon voyage" to Mr. Barrows, Chief of the United States Operations in Saigon. He is taking a home leave of about three months.

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At 1930 hrs the same evening, General Williams invited me to a reception in honour of Lt General Magruder who is touring the Asian military-aided countries in the capacity of Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. Presumably he is already in our country.

b. December 8. At 1030 hrs the Mayor of the City invited me to a reception in honour of the departing members of "Operation Brotherhood".

At 1930 hrs the same evening Mrs. Choi and I gave a dinner in honour of General and Mrs. Miller O. Perry. Brigadier General Perry served in Korea during the heavy fighting. He has finished his two-years duty as Chief of Staff to General Williams and will be the Commanding General of U.S. 1st Armored Division Artillery.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem.

Respectfully,



Choi, Duk Shin
Minister of Republic of Korea
to Vietnam

His Excellency
President of Republic of Korea.

Attachments: