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CDS Report No. 29 from Choi Duk Shin to the President (Syngman Rhee)

Citation:

"CDS Report No. 29 from Choi Duk Shin to the President (Syngman Rhee)", December 20, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-330-114, 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.
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/120933>

Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on the overall work of the legation, anti-communist strategies, Chinese ethnic minority normalization in South Vietnam, and Cambodian-Japanese relations.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

December 20, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL.

CDS REPORT NO. 029

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No. 029 and with your permission I shall make it serve as my last regular weekly report of this year, 1956.

1. Review of Past Year
2. Report on this Legation
3. Talks with Anti-Communist Russian Leaders'
4. Chinese translation of Dr. Oliver's book "The Man Behind the Myth"
5. Vietnam Affairs during the past week and News of Cambodia

1. Review of Past Year

Looking back over the past year I find myself filled with many emotions and excitements. When we view the side of darkness behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains we have every reason to believe that the Communist Empire will sooner or later collapse as have other Empires. The power-struggle within the palaces of the Kremlin and Peking will show continuous evidences of this inevitable collapse.

For a long time the people behind the curtains have not been trusted by the Communist rulers and now it has reached a point whereby the people no longer fear the members of the Communist Party and the Red Armed Forces. Every proof is evident that many members of the Party along with Officers and men of the Armed Forces are sympathetic to the great suffering of the mass of the people under the Red rule.

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The feelings being expressed are that not only the Satellites want their independence from the Kremlin, but even the Russian people themselves are desirous of getting "freedom from Red rule".

When we take account of the Free World side, we notice that the over-whelming majority of the people are determined to condemn the Communists' cruelty. It seems that the leaders of the 'big nations' are aware of the real danger of the Communist menace to their own countries too. Even the leaders of the neutral nations are condemning the armed intervention of Soviet Russia in Hungary. India's leader, Nehru, is trying very hard to recover his prestige which he lost because of the "Hungary cause".

In view of the happenings evidenced in this year 1956, I believe very strongly that next year, namely year 1957, should be a decisive one. I do not think that we should permit the Communist rule to extend later than the year 1958.

Since the main obstacle of our unification is the existence of a strong Red Chinese Army in the Northern part of our country, we have every reason to ask Nationalist China to invade her own mainland in order to press the Red Chinese to withdraw from our country, or at least let the Red Chinese Army fight on two fronts.

I was glad to note recently that several Chinese high responsible officials stated that they, Nationalist Chinese, will invade the mainland of China in the coming year. Especially the statement made by the Vice President of Nationalist China was significant. According to my own long-time observation, I believe the said Vice-President, General Chen Cheung (陳誠) is one of the most important figures in China. He has great trust in President Chiang; and he is respected by most of the people of Free China because of his good records both military and political. When we feel that the time has come for consultation with Nationalist China on the real

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strategy, General Chen Cheung should be the first man to consider beside President Chiang himself.

In this connection I would like to make mentioned of two more important figures with whom we should consult when we deem it necessary. They are:

- 1) Mr. Chang Cheun (張 群), the Secretary General to the President, a long-time politician in China.
- 2) Lt General Chiang Ching-Kou (蔣 經 國) the older son of President Chiang is a man who furnished all the information to his father for decisions. All the secret forces are under his control.

When the time comes to discuss the strategy to be used in connection with driving out of the Red Forces and recovering the Mainland of China, it is my personal opinion that the above mentioned three figures are the most important people beside President Chiang himself.

2. Report on this Legation.

(A) At the end of this year this Legation will have been established in Vietnam for a period of seven months. I recall that I first arrived in Saigon on May 1st of this year, while the two other members of my Legation arrived one week prior to my arrival. The important events have been as follows.

On May 15 Your Excellency was re-elected as our President for a third term. On May 22 I had the honour of presenting my Credentials to the President of Vietnam.

We observed the Sixth Anniversary of the hated June 25th (6.25). We observed the ceremony of President Ngo Dinh Diem's second year of administration on July 7th.

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On August 15th we, the members of this Legation, and our compatriots living in Saigon, celebrated for the first time in Vietnam, our meaningful day.

On October 26th we and General Chung had been invited to congratulate the one-year-old Republic of Vietnam and we also participated in the celebration of the inauguration of the First Constituency of Vietnam.

The above few significant occasions marked the first seven months of history of this Legation.

I wish to assure Your Excellency that the prestige and respect and understanding of our beloved country in Vietnam, in particular, and in the area of South Asia in general, is very high. Representation of our country in Vietnam has brought us into recognition in the last few months whereas previously I found there was very little real knowledge of our country, her people and her culture. I believe that this prestige, respect and understanding of the Republic of Korea will continue to mount in the next year due to the efforts of all members of this Legation.

(B) I am happy to report to Your Excellency that our Legation on December 20th moved from the former place to a new location at Nos.107-109 rue Nguyen Du (ex rue Taberd).

When I moved my office from the hotel to the site where we worked until yesterday, was May 5th, five days after my arrival in Saigon. The move was made in a hurry because I felt that I could not work in the hotel. I did not count on the former house as a permanent place for the Legation. I can now with great pleasure announce to Your Excellency that the Chancery to which we have moved today can be counted as a permanent site for our Legation.

The location is just on the right side of the President's palace. It is in a most central location to all governmental houses and to all diplomatic missions. All within five minutes driving distances. Beside the above mentioned factors, the house itself and the garden are of a higher quality than the former one.

3. Talks with Anti-Communist Russian leaders.

The Chairman of "NTS", the Russian anti-Communist organization, Dr. Poremsky and his colleague, Dr. Redlich, arrived here on December 14 and will leave for Manila on December 21, and Dr. Poremsky will then fly to our country from Manila. The schedule of his arrival in Seoul is not determined yet.

The said Chairman, Dr. Poremsky, has held several talks in Saigon at various organizations. I was present at one of his talks. I was also invited by Father deJaegher to a luncheon when I had the opportunity to talk to him. Dr. Poremsky expressed the desire to have an audience with Your Excellency after his arrival in Seoul and also hoped to obtain the assistance of our country to undergo their revolutionary tasks.

I summarize the important points of those talks as follows:

- a. The majority of the people behind the Iron Curtain no longer 'fear' the Communists rule. Since Stalin's death the ruling class has no more absolute power as it had in Stalin's time. In Russia, the concentration camps are the potential anti-Communist revolutionary forces.
- b. The Kremlin leaders have no more confidence in their six millions of Communist members and huge armed forces.
- c. The weapons and ammunitions used by the Hungarians for the uprising were supplied by Russian soldiers.
- d. The Hungarian people had believed that the people of the Free World would come to their rescue when they rose up

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in revolt against their oppressors. It was clear to everybody who listened to the voice of Free Europe broadcasting that the voice had agitated the uprising and promised to go to the rescue. But at the critical moment the "Free Voice" tried to deny that he had made this promise.

- e. Theoretical talk alone cannot convince the U.S. government to act. Direct action would be the only method of convincing the U.S. government officials. Both leaders of anti-Communist Russians praised the action of releasing the POWs by the Government of the Republic of Korea very very highly saying that this determined and strong action had much effect in convincing the U.S. government to act strongly against the POW issue. I told them more about the real story.
- f. When I inquired of the possibility of organizing a real armed force from the people who came out of the Iron Curtain, they said there are several hundreds of thousands of them. It is possible to organize a brigade. However, it is difficult to find a country which will permit them to organize it in its territory. Even the West German Government is not in favor of it.

Since the anti-Communist struggle is a whole world task, the Russian anti-Communist leaders expressed their wishes to get Your Excellency's guidance and also hoped our people are willing to help them to accomplish their task of over-throwing the 'Soviet' regime.

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4. Chinese translation of Dr. Oliver's book
"The Man behind the Myth".

Five hundred copies of the Chinese translation of this publication upon my request have been transported here in Saigon. They are already on sale in a book store and the book has been significantly noticed by the Chinese newspapers and other anti-Communist communities. I attach the news clippings about the sale and the editorials from two leading Chinese newspapers into the newsclippings for Your Excellency's information.

5. Vietnam Affairs during the past week and news of
Cambodia.

a. After adoption of the Internal Regulations, the Legislative Assembly has undergone an internal organization.

The Assembly has re-elected the same Speaker as before, Mr. Tran Van Lam. One Vice-Speaker has been re-elected and the former Minister for Health and Social Affairs has been elected as the Second Vice-Speaker.

The Assembly has also organized the Bureau and also the twelve Committees. The Assembly Members have divided themselves into a Majority Block and a Minority Block.

I attach a list of the above-mentioned organizations with this report. I shall also submit a copy of this list to our National Assembly.

b. The Foreign Minister, Mr. Vu Van Mau, returned from his official visit to Australia on December 19th. I was with other diplomatic representatives to greet him at the airport.

c. The Chinese propose to adopt "dual citizenship law" for Chinese born in Vietnam as a step to negotiate with the Vietnamese Government on the problem of "Naturalization". According to the naturalization law of China, a Chinese citizen who has not applied for abrogation of citizenship from the Interior Ministry, is still considered as a Chinese citizen. The question is whether or not

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the Vietnamese Government will accept dual citizenship for Chinese born in Vietnam.

d. News of Cambodia concerning Japan.

(1) No settlement of 50,000 Japanese in Cambodia.

The Secretary of State for Information formally announced as groundless the news published by a newspaper and according to which the Japanese Government and the Royal Cambodian Government would have been in agreement on the settlement of 50,000 Japanese on Cambodian territory.

(2) No desire for "economic aid" from Japan.

It is reported that the Cambodian diplomatic representative in Tokyo made a statement as follows:

"Cambodia does not wish to appear as demanding economic aid in return for renouncing its war damage claims against Japan.

"Cambodia expects nothing as counterpart for this reparations renunciation.

"By force of repeating the term "economic aid" to Cambodia, it would appear as if Cambodia had renounced its claim for war damage with the intentions of receiving economic aid from Japan in exchange.

"We do not want in any manner that the Japanese Government feels itself morally constrained to envisage economic aid to Cambodia in gratitude for the gesture of the Khmer Kingdom.

"It would perhaps be preferable to do nothing which could in any way cast a shadow on this friendship and, therefore, we wish to renounce all projects of economic aid to Cambodia from Japan as well as projects of capital investment for the construction of a resort city at Kirirom".

A copy of these news items has been sent to the Director of our OPI.

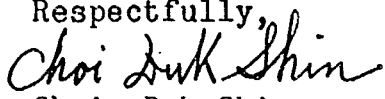
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These above two news items clearly show:

- 1) How the Japanese feel their "superiority" toward the people in South East Asia who suffered so much from the Japanese in World War II. And the Japanese intention of aggression is generally noted by the people in this area.
- 2) The Japanese are making news in advance with the purpose of letting the others accept what they want as a fact.
- 3) The people in the newly independent nations are more jealous of their prestige and sovereignty. They want others to respect them.
- 4) Since the out-moded Japanese are taking an active role in the underdeveloped areas still with their imperialistic minded attitude, the relationship between the people of South East Asia and the Japanese traders or would-be traders can hardly be reconciled.

As this year draws to a close may I express to Your Excellency my deep appreciation of all the considerations you have bestowed upon me during the past several months and I humbly ask you to accept my very sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a fulfilment of the desire closest to your heart in the year to come.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem.

Respectfully,

Choi, Duk Shin
Minister of the Republic of Korea
to the Republic of Vietnam

His Excellency
President of the Republic of Korea.

Attachments: