

August 15, 1957
**CDS Report No. 52 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on the preparation for Malayan Independence Ceremony, National Day activities, and Vietnamese affairs, including President Diem's travel to Thailand and the continued issue of Chinese minorities in South Vietnam.

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August 15, 1957

CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT NO. 052

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit this Weekly Report No.052 on the day of greatest importance to our Nation and people. Your Excellency led our people to fight the Japanese cruel rule and finally won the liberation and independence. The Koreans still pray to have Your Excellency's leadership and guidance to achieve the unification of our Nation and to rescue the suffering compatriots in the North.

I, with the highest respect and admiration, wish to express my sincere congratulation for Your Excellency's great merits and successes in the past years and again my best wishes for your good health and continuous prosperity of our beloved Nation under Your Excellency's leadership.

This report will cover the following points:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. Preparations for Malayan Independence Ceremony
3. Observance of National Day
4. Vietnamese Affairs

1. In the last pouch I received Your Excellency's Instruction No.84 which acknowledged receipt of my Weekly Report No.050, and in which I was informed that I shall be Your Excellency's personal representative to the Malayan independence ceremony. I humbly feel it will be one of the greatest honours I ever had and I swear to do my best according to the instructions.

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In the same pouch there was a document of 31 pages marked "Top Secret" on Japan's defence budget and strength of armed forces. There was also abundant informative material enclosed in the same pouch from Your Excellency's office. I thank you very much for all these considerations and troubles which give me a great deal of valuable information to conduct my mission here. I will treasure them and use them as much as I can.

2. Preparations for Malayan Independence Ceremony.

I am sure that in next week's pouch our Foreign Minister will give me adequate information on the preparations. However, when I count the days left for me to meet the preparations, there is just time enough for one more communication; for safety, I would like to mention a few things which are in my mind at this moment. They are:

- a. The credential documents for this Mission.
- b. Instructions for this Mission including the question of exchange of diplomatic envoys.

I do not believe that the Malayan Government could spare in the near future persons and budgets to establish an independent diplomatic Mission in our country, as I have indicated in the last report.

However, as far as we are concerned, we may well plan beforehand, for the purpose of future economic relations, to establish a diplomatic mission in Kuala Lumpur and to let it cover the area of Malaya, Singapore as well as British Borneo.

c. Gifts to be presented to the Dignitaries of Malaya.

What I can think of at this moment, there are two kinds of gifts which will be very valuable for my Mission:

One, Your Excellency's hand painted scrolls.,-

Two, our Hongsam (紅參).

I am sure they will treasure Your Excellency's hand painted Scrolls as one of the best arts of today. And the name of

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Korean Hongsam is very high in Southeast Asia, as I have mentioned in a previous report.

The receivers of these gifts whom I am thinking are most important, are:

The Chief of State

The Vice-Chief of State

The Prime Minister (the actual Administrator of Malayan Federation)

It is possible I will need a few more pieces of the above mentioned items to present some other dignitaries besides these important three personalities.

The above mentioned matters are what I have in mind at this moment to meet the preparations for the Malayan Independence Ceremony.

I will be leaving for Malaya on or about August 29th. That will be the last Thursday of the month and will be just after receiving the regular pouch. (The pouch arrives on Tuesday or Wednesday.)

3. Observance of our National Day.

At 0900 hours our compatriots in Saigon were summoned in this Chancery hall to observe our meaningful National Day. Your Excellency's message was read by myself and all participants listened to it with great emotion.

At 0930 hours I visited the Vietnamese Broadcasting Building and tape-recorded my speech for the National Day.

At 1230 hours I was host to a luncheon. The guests were the Speaker, the Vice-Speaker, the Secretary-General and three Chairmen of the Committee of Vietnamese National Assembly, the Mayor of Saigon, two high ranking Red Cross officers were also present.

At the cocktail before luncheon, I had a private talk with the Speaker. I asked him if he knew that his President will visit India. He said he did not know it and nobody discussed this matter

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with him. I told him that: "We learned with much sorrow the news of his President's visit to India in the near future. It will disturb not only the Korean people, but will also astonish the people of the free world. We all know that India Nehru's "neutralism" and "coexistence" policy is to lull the anti-communist people into deep sleep and let the Communists take over the half remaining territory and its people without a fight. We should never fall into this trap. And since India did not recognize your country, it would be very inconvenient for a head of state to visit". He said he will talk to the President concerning this matter.

During the luncheon I had some interesting talks with the Secretary-General of National Assembly (also Assemblyman) Mr. Nguyen-Phuong-Thiep, who was seated on my left. He was the chief delegate to the APACL in Manila and in Saigon. He is the director of the only Vietnamese owned French language paper "La Gazette". He has just returned from England at the invitation of the British Government. His impression of England is a good one. He feels that the Communists do not have any chance to make a revolution in England, because the British Government is doing a lot of good for the people. On "French Government System" he said it is the worst sample of democracy. Even as highly civilized as British people, they told him they feel they could not do much good with such a system. He told me with great pleasure that the name of "Korea" and "Coree" is very popular in both England and France. In Marseille he saw posters in French, if translated in English is like this "Chinese get out of Korea" on one side, and on the other side it said "Let Korea handle her own affairs". He could understand what the first one meant, but he had to ask someone what the second one meant. It was explained to him that the second one was written by left-wing's party and it meant that the U.S.A. also should not intervene with the Korean problem.

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He then turned the talks to Asia. He said the APACL is preparing a "caucus" in Taipei in order to prepare the next meeting in Bangkok. He suddenly told me that "for Japan's admission" we should not "hurry". I seized this opportunity to explain how Japan is taking advantage of U.S. Government's pro-Japanese policy to build up her economic and military strength to dominate Asian countries again. I told him my own personal opinion on both the "Economic Developing Plan" and "Arsenal of Asia's Program" by saying that both are great insults to all Asian independent countries and people. I tried to explain to him along the lines which I have previously reported. He agreed with me entirely and will do his share to prevent it from happening. I concluded my talk on "Japan" with the following statement:

"The next step for economic domination and military supremacy is the political conquer; Japanese co-prosperity-sphere-idea should be prevented to spread its seeds in the present era of democracy, freedom, independence."

At the end of the meal, we raised our glass to congratulate our National Day and toasted for the health of both great Presidents of our two countries. It was a very successful luncheon.

At 1800 hours we, all members of this Legation, lined up to greet the distinguished guests who came to congratulate us on our National Day. The President of Viet-Nam was represented by the Minister for Presidency, Mr. Nguyen Huu Chau. All high ranking Vietnamese officials and heads of diplomatic Missions in Saigon were invited and present.

Between 2045 and 2130 hours, the Vietnamese broadcasting system kindly offered us "The Hour for Korea". National anthem and Folks' songs with my own speech in English and Vietnamese translation were covered during "The Hour for Korea". Because several days were re-

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quired for the preparation of this program, Your Excellency's speech could not be included in it and I am deeply sorry.

However, we have furnished the English text of Your Excellency's speech to the Press and we also prepared some material concerning our cultural fields for the Press beforehand and almost all of the newspapers, Vietnamese, French, English and Chinese papers have given us good treatment on our National Day. I attach some of these to the Special Newsclipping. I can proudly report that there has been no other National Day which has been so meaningfully covered by the radio and newspapers as our National Day.

As Your Excellency clearly pointed out in the National Day's speech, we have accomplished a lot in the past years, after the liberation, we still have much to do in the coming years. I am fully aware that internally we have to unify our country to recover our lost sovereignty and to rescue our compatriots in the North as soon as possible. While we are waiting for the time to come to accomplish this, we must endeavour to improve the living conditions of the people. Internationally, we have to fight the immediate threat of world-communism which is spear-headed by Red China, we have to watch the "Expansionism of Japan" and to prevent her "co-prosperity sphere" under the guise of "economic development". Meanwhile we have to warn the Western leading powers not to be lulled by Communist's and Neutralist's "co-existence theory" which has been so badly affected in the newly recovered Nations of the underdeveloped area; we have to guide them to come back in the "right" track.

4. Vietnamese Affairs

a. President Ngo-Dinh-Diem's departure for Thailand.

On August 15th at 0645 hours the President of Viet-Nam arrived at the airport and inspected the guard of honour and received

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the people's best wishes for a "Bon Voyage". He shook hands with all the diplomatic representatives and when came my turn he recalled that this was our National Day and he expressed his "congratulations" to Your Excellency and our people.

At 0700 hours sharp his two-propeller Vietnamese airplane departed. The Foreign Minister and the Finance Minister were among the 10 men's presidential suite.

b. Chinese Problem.

About 500 Chinese repatriaters, who were born in Viet-Nam but did not wish to take Vietnamese citizenship, have already left in two groups of (5) CAT airplanes in the past 2 weeks. However, the third group of 5 CAT planes could not arrive on time as scheduled. Someone told me very secretly that this delay was caused by Vietnamese insisting on evacuating prisoners of Chinese origin, which means that from now on every group of 5 CAT planes has to spare at least 2 planes for these prisoners. The Vietnamese Government insists very strongly on this. On the contrary the Chinese Government does not yet consent to this and apparently the CAT airline company will not risk the danger of transporting the undesirable and dangerous passengers without heavy measures of guarding them. The Vietnamese officials are insisting that this matter was informed long ago, but the Chinese Minister in Saigon says that he reported this to his Government who does not yet agree and he further says that these two things should not be mixed, it should be treated as separate matters in order that the comparatively smooth running of the evacuation plan by air transportation should not be disturbed by this matter of prisoners. This important incident cannot be solved during the President's absence, so it is in complete deadlock. The above mentioned incident gave us the impression that the Chinese Government is endeavouring to do her best to protect the

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principle of free choice of nationality with great patience and heavy financial and many other burdens. On the other hand the Vietnamese Government tries with every possible means to prevent the increasing of the number of evacuating Chinese born in Viet-Nam.

c. The Republic of Viet-Nam will be represented at the Federation of Malaya's Independence celebrations by Minister of National Education and the acting-Minister of National Defence will be the second man of this Mission.

In closing this report I, representing the staff of this Legation and also our compatriots in Saigon, express the deepest sympathy and concern to the victims of the recent disastrous floods. Your Excellency's personal survey of the flooded areas will have had great effect on the rescuing work and also helped desperate victims to recover their courage. We pray that this disaster will soon pass away.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem.

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin

Choi Duk Shin
Minister to Viet-Nam

His Excellency,
President of Republic of Korea.

Attachments: 1. Special newsclipping for August 15th.
 2. What Happened in Viet-Nam.

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