

July 26, 1957
**CDS Report No. 49 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on the recognition of the Federation of Malaya, trade missions between South Korea and South Vietnam, and recent Vietnamese and Southeast Asian affairs.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT NO. 049

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit the Weekly Report No.049
as follows:

1. Receipt of Instructions.
2. Our Recognition of the Federation of Malaya.
3. Exchange of Trade Missions between Republic of Korea and Viet Nam.
4. Chinese Newspapers on Japan.
5. Viet Nam and Southeast Asian Affairs.
6. Social Activities.

1. Receipt of Instructions.

a. I acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Instruction No.79 dated July 18, 1957.

b. On July 23, this Legation received a coded cable from KORPITAL. I am submitting with this Report a separate Special Report concerning specifically the "Colombo Plan". The Special Report will be noted as "Kolisa-57 SP Report No.13.

c. Concerning "Japan's expansionism", I have sent out a letter to the former U.S. Ambassador to Viet Nam who is presently the Counsellor of State Department, formerly occupied by Ambassador MacArthur. I attach a copy of this letter to this report for information. Few more similar letters will be sent out this week.

2. Our Recognition of the Federation of Malaya.

As reported, the Federation of Malaya will be granted full

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independence in the frame work of Commonwealth at the end of this coming August. I recall that our Foreign Minister at a Press Conference on Mayll indicated that we will recognize the independence of the Federation of Malaya. I feel it is advisable that our Foreign Ministry asks the British Ambassador in Seoul to transmit our Government's intention to the due independent Federation of Malaya as soon as possible in order to get her reaction before the end of August.

Here I would like to mention a little about the invitation of Malaya to participate to the Independent Ceremony. The Malayan Government has decided to invite the Nations which fall into the following categories. As far as I recall they are:

- (1) Member Nations of Commonwealth
- (2) Islamic Nations
- (3) Member Nations of SEATO
- (4) Countries that have Consulate or Commercial Representatives in Singapore at present time

Since our Country does not apply to any of the above mentioned categories, we do not expect to receive a formal invitation. However, if our Government deems necessary to have one of our men go there to observe the ceremony, I believe we still can transmit our intention through the British Ambassador in Seoul.

I believe the restrictions made by the Malayan Government are for the following dual purposes. One, from their announcements and talks on this matter of invitation, I got the impression that the Malayan Government will avoid to have any Communist country invited; two, from my own observation, I believe the accommodations in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaya, are very much limited.

3. Exchange of Trade Missions between Republic of Korea and Viet Nam.

In my Report No.048 I stated that Vietnamese Government

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plans to send a Good-will Mission to Korea. The other day the Vietnamese Foreign Minister told me that the plan has been approved by his President and is now in the hands of Vice-President (he is also the Minister of National Economy) for detailed planning. I may be able to get more detailed information on this and report it in the next weekly report.

During a conversation with the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, I have also learned that there is a news that we will also send a similar mission to Viet Nam. He asked if I knew anything about a Korean delegation to come to Viet Nam to observe the Harbour Installations and so on. He told me that this matter was informed by USOM (United States Operation Mission) in Viet Nam. He further stated that his Government did not take any action on this yet, because he has not received any word from the proper diplomatic channel. He said that his Government will welcome such a delegation from our Country, because his Government is going to send a Trade delegation to us. This is a good opportunity to exchange the Good-will Missions. However, he told me that he was very astonished when he was asked by his President if he knew that the Republic of Korea will have a delegation coming to Viet Nam.

I was also very astonished to learn it for the first time from the Vietnamese Foreign Minister. I told him that as soon as I get the answer from our Government I will inform him on this matter. Even if this kind of thing is sponsored or financed by a United States Agency, still there are many administrative matters involving each respective country; I feel strongly that the concerned U.S. Agency or our own responsible officials should care to take it through the proper diplomatic channel.

I have heard the same complaint from a diplomat of a neighbouring country. He said that he was not consulted about the

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visit of Vietnamese police delegation to his country, but that they made direct contact between USOM and the respective U.S. Agency in his country. I feel this kind of ignorance of proper diplomatic channel by the foreign aid agency should be checked and corrected.

4. Chinese Newspapers on Japan.

I am glad to report that the Chinese newspapers in Southeast Asia are gradually getting the same opinion as we have on "Japan".

I am attaching several articles warning about Japanese expansionism, which appeared in prominent Chinese newspapers in Saigon and in Hong Kong just recently. The Observatory Review's editorial of July 16 under the title: "How Japan should get along with the Free World?" pointed out the following:

one, supported by U.S. the once defeated Japan has been built up rapidly.....the President of U.S. is doing every possible thing for Japan in order to get Japan's favor.....

two, however, Japan is not appreciating this generosity of U.S.A. and is still playing the old-fashioned "water-duck diplomacy". Appeasing to Russia and Red China.

three, this paper pointed out that Japan is not the suitable one who should handle the development plan for Southeast Asia. The editorial said that the people in Southeast Asia could not forget what the Japanese imperialists did during World War II.

four, this Hong Kong paper pointed out that Hong Kong suffered tremendously from Japan in the last war; this paper regretfully blames that there was no official apology from Japan to the people of Hong Kong and in many

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occasions had even ignored and insulted Hong Kong.

I am sorry I did not have time to translate the whole text of these editorials from the Chinese newspapers of Hong Kong and Saigon. However, I attach these to newsclipping for Your Excellency's information.

In the past the anti-communist Chinese newspapers had a tendency to approve the Nationalist China's policy toward Japan and generally not quite agreed with our position on the question of Japan. Now it seems to me that they are awakening and the Government of Nationalist China will eventually follow our line of policy toward Japan.

5. Viet Nam and Southeast Asian Affairs.

a. President Ngo Dinh Diem to visit Thailand.

Although it has not yet been announced, it is almost certain that the President of Republic of Viet Nam is to visit Thailand in the middle of August. I have learned this from Thailand Ambassador and was also confirmed by the Foreign Minister. Because of security reasons, both governments will withhold the announcement until the latest date.

b. Chinese Repatriation Problems in Viet Nam will be settled soon.

On July 19, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a communique on the repatriation of Chinese born in Viet Nam, to Formosa. According to the communique, of the 3,331 Chinese born in Viet Nam who have requested to be repatriated, up to now, only 1,742 have presented themselves at various police stations to fulfil the formalities necessary to their departure, and 822 persons have received their repatriation cards.

By this communique the Vietnamese Government grants them the last time-limit from July 20 to July 27, 1957 to complete these

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formalities. After this dead line those who still do not have their repatriation cards will automatically have Vietnamese nationality. Holders of these cards should leave for Formosa not later than the end of August.

Apparently, the Vietnamese Government, who is very busy to do many other things, has no more patience to continue the uncertainty of Chinese repatriation problem. She set up a time-limit to force the slow motioned Chinese born in Viet Nam to act quickly. Full text of the translation of this important communique is attached to the newsclipping.

c. Mr. Russell Wright, an American industrial designer, is due to come to Viet Nam in September of this year to start the project. According to the American officials' opinion, Mr. Wright is a very well known industrial designer. The project was only created after his survey last year. The actual work will start in the coming September, so the Vietnamese people's opinion is not yet available. I will watch the development of this project carefully and report on it as soon as I get some opinion from the Vietnamese side on Mr. Wright's result.

d. Fifteen Vietnamese officers and men are invited by the U.S. Eighth Army to our country to take on the job training. They left Saigon today and will be in Seoul on or about July 28. My Military Attache went to the airport to bid them "Bon Voyage".

e. Minimum Custom Duty between Viet Nam and Philippines.

A communique issued by Foreign Ministry reads:

"The Government of the Philippines has asked the Republic of Viet Nam Government to apply the minimum custom duty to goods imported from the Philippines to Viet Nam. It has also informed that it is disposed to grant, reciprocally, Vietnamese products imported to the Philippines, the most favoured nation treatment.

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Consequently, the Vietnamese Government has just given its approval to the application effective July 15, 1957, of the minimum custom duty on goods imported to Viet Nam from the Philippines."

f. Thailand rejects demand of bank of Japan to open a branch in Bangkok.

AFP report dated July 23, 1957 said:

"A radio broadcast announced last evening a statement of Finance Minister stating that the Thailand Government has rejected the demand made by a bank of Japan to open a branch in Bangkok. The Minister pointed out that two (2) Japanese banks already have their branches in Bangkok and for the moment the Thai Government is not willing to grant such an authorization to open a third Japanese bank branch in Bangkok."

The last time I was in Bangkok, someone mentioned to me this Japanese demand and indicated that the Thai Government would reject it. The same man told me also that since it is a general rule that the Thai Government will allow one branch of bank from one country, it will certainly be granted to the Korean Bank to have a branch set up in Bangkok.

g. Cabinet Crisis of Laos and Cambodia.

The 2 months old crisis of Laos and about 20 days old crisis of Cambodia are still far from settled.

Laos: Mr. Katay Don Sasorith, the staunchy anti-communist leader of Laos, has been designated as Prime Minister a second time. After one week's efforts of getting the consent of various group leaders, he has to give up the attempt. It was reported that the former Prime Minister will be the next choice as Premier-designate. The prospect is still a dark one.

Cambodia: AFP reported from the capital of Cambodia, stating:

"A Royal Palace communique announced today that Mr. Phlek Phoeun, a former Minister, gave up his attempt to form the new government of Cambodia.

The King began consulting with the Presidents of the two Houses.

Mr. Phlek Phoeun has been affected by the last hour desertion of some of his major collaborators. The crisis threatens with embittering."

Both the tiny Kingdoms are in very embittered crisis and nobody knows when it will be settled even for only a temporary period.

According to my personal observation there are two main reasons for this situation, they are:

- one: There is no significant strong leader who can get the support of the majority of the people, which is very important in all newly independent nations;
- two: The French style of constitution could never provide a stabilized Government, which is most needed by these newly independent countries. Even with very highly civilized and democratic trained people like the French, they could not expect a stabilized Government under such a constitution.

Apparently, the constitutions and laws of both Kingdoms, Laos and Cambodia, are copied from the French.

6. Social Activities.

a. Friday, July 19, was the Independence Day of the Kingdom of Laos. I and my staff were invited to attend the reception of the Charge d'Affaires of Laos to Viet Nam.

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b. Sunday, July 21, was the National Day for Belgium. The Belgium Legation invited us at a reception for her National Day.

c. Monday, July 22, a dinner was given by the Acting Defence Minister in honour of the visiting U.S. Vice-Admiral Anderson. I was seated on his right. U.S. Ambassador and General Williams were the most distinguished guests of the dinner.

Admiral Anderson and I had met at a dinner party given by Mr. Drumright last year in Hong Kong.

Admiral Anderson, as Chief of Staff of Admiral Stump, is now touring several countries in this area. He left Saigon on July 24. He will stop in Formosa and is due to arrive in our country on Monday, July 29.

My Military Attache was at the airport when he arrived.

During the course of the dinner, the host, acting Minister of National Defence, told the guests that he has two Koreans serving as his personal aids. He said this is because they are honest and their doing is much better than the Vietnamese.

I take the liberty to assure Your Excellency that these two compatriots are very sincere and honest, they are doing good jobs as the Vietnamese Minister's aids.

d. Wednesday, July 24, I invited the former Vietnamese Minister to our country, Major General Duong-Van-Duc to a luncheon. The other distinguished guests were the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of National Assembly, Secretary General of Foreign Ministry, Secretary General of Defence Ministry, Chief of Staff of ROVA and Commandant of General Staff College. On the U.S. side I had General Williams and two high ranking officers with us.

e. Thursday, July 25, in the afternoon I called on Foreign Minister Vu Van Mau.

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With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem,

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin

Choi Duk Shin
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of Republic of Korea

Excellency,

President of Republic of Korea.

- Attachments:
1. Kolisa-57 SP Report No. 13.
 2. Copy of letter to Mr. Reinhardt.
 3. Newsclipping.
 4. List of distribution of Information Bulletin and Korean Republic.

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