

July 18, 1957
**CDS Report No. 48 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

Citation:

"CDS Report No. 48 from Choi Duk Shin to the President (Syngman Rhee)", July 18, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-331-039, 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/120951>

Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on the greetings of the Prime Minister of Thailand, opinions on Japanese expansionism, and recent Vietnamese affairs.

Credits:

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

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

July 18, 1957

CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT NO. 048

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No.048
as follows:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. Greetings from Prime Minister of Thailand
3. Japanese Expansionism should be countered
4. Viet Nam Affairs
5. Social Activities

1. Receipt of Instructions.

In the last pouch which arrived here on Tuesday, July
16th, I received Instructions Nos. 74 and 75.

a. Concerning our News Bulletin.

We are going to do the following few changes in
order to apply Your Excellency's Instructions.

- (i) The No.0047 issue dated July 12, 1957 was the
last one for Seoul Edition, from issue No.0048
on there will be only the Saigon Edition.
- (ii) The distribution will be extended to those
countries I have visited recently, and of
course there will be also more copies availa-
ble for the distribution to local organizations
and personnel.
- (iii) English and French combined edition will be

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used in Viet Nam. Laos and Cambodia will have only French edition and the other countries will have only English edition sent out.

The above mentioned points are the few changes on our "Korea-Viet Nam News Round'Up". In my next report I may be able to submit a distribution list to Your Excellency for information.

b. Concerning Mr. Russell Wright.

I will find out the answer and I may be able to submit it in my next report.

Again I wish to assure Your Excellency that the staff of this Legation and I are always ready to comply with Your Excellency's Instructions.

2. Greetings from Prime Minister of Thailand.

I have the honour to convey the greetings from Field Marshal, P. PihulSonggram, Prime Minister of Thailand. In his letter to me dated July 8, 1957, he stated:

"I would like to conclude this letter by extending to Korea and her people my very best wishes for a continued welfare and prosperity, and to your President my highest esteem and regards."

I enclose copy of his letter with this report for Your Excellency's reference.

3. Japanese Expansionism should be Countered.

As I reported previously, the anti-Japanese feeling is still high in Southeast Asia. Because in those places where the Japanese were in occupation, the people found the Japanese rule to be the worst one. It has been a general rule to refuse those

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Japanese who were war criminals or with bad records. They have been strictly refused permission to come in as their presence alone would stir up trouble because people's feelings against the Japs will last for many more years to come.

In order to recover this bad reputation, the Japanese Government is seeking every possible opportunity to utilize two effective weapons: one is "Bow as deeply as possible" to show politeness and humbleness; two is "Goods as cheap as possible" in order to gain the market first and then to monopolize it. After having monopolized the market, political domination will follow. As the disguise was disclosed Kisi's hurried trip to six Southeast Asian countries before proceeding to America was for this ambition. And Kisi's talks with U.S. Government officials were mainly aimed to persuade them to recognize him as the leader of Asia and to help him financially in order to achieve his dream of "co-prosperity" as rapidly as possible.

Despite the fact that Prime Minister Kisi himself is an economist, he still named another big businessman to be his Foreign Minister, immediately after he returned from America. While drafting this report, I have learned that the new Japanese Foreign Minister has decided to dispatch economic roving Ambassadors to tour Southeast Asia and South America.

All this means that Mr. Kisi is exploiting the Economic Diplomacy with the purpose of dominating Asia politically at the end.

Since I act as a member of Foreign Ministry for the Southeast Asia Affairs, I feel that I have a grave and tremendous responsibility to watch the Japanese expansion toward this area. I also feel that it is my duty to make prompt suggestions on our part of efforts toward this general area.

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Although the Japanese are making all the efforts possible to achieve their goal, the situation, as I see it, is not a very favourable one to the Japanese. In my judgment, the recent mission of Kisi was a failed one. His hurried trip to the Southeast Asian countries prior to visit America, was not welcomed by those countries as he expected. They did not want him to act as the spokesman for them; they felt it was an insult to them. As far as I know Kisi did not gain any weight by his hurried trip to Southeast Asia to effect his talk with U.S. Government officials. It seemed to me that Kisi's trip to U.S. was also a not-very-successful one. Apparently the U.S. diplomats in those Southeast Asia countries watched very closely Kisi's trip and reported the true nature of the reactions of the people and the thinking of the leaders of those countries. I feel that our constant warning of the danger of Japanese Expansionism had some effect on the U.S. Government and also on the leaders of this area. However, in view of the Japanese desperate activities, I feel it is high time for us to act vigorously and physically.

My observation is that in Asia there are two more Nations besides Japan who are in the position to establish the economic tie with the raw-material-rich Southeast Asian countries. They are Korea, China. The Free China is now out of this competition; and the Red China instead is making every efforts with its multiple folded objectives.

As I have reported the Japanese together with Communists are making every efforts to "isolate" us. If we stand still their attempt of "isolating us" will succeed. Politically speaking we are in a fairly good position. We can share the same sympathy with the countries of this area; we can get along with the Western

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Powers such as Great Britain, France, Australia, U.S.A. etc. pretty well. The over sea Chinese, who are now suffering very much from the "Nationalism" tendency of the newly independent countries, will give us good cooperation.

Our only handicap is that we have not had the opportunity in the past to develop our industry to meet the requirements of this area. This we must overcome sooner or later anyhow. I am confident that our people with honest hearts, physically strong, with great intellect and industrious of custom are sure to be in a position to compete with any country, if we vigorously attempt it. I feel the best way to deter the Japanese expansionism is our competition, mere propaganda or counter propaganda is not enough; the physically doing is the vital thing to achieve it.

Although I have already discussed with the staff of Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Commerce and Industry the details of these matters while I was in Seoul last, I still feel obliged to recommend the following points at this moment:

one: Foreign Ministry should formulate a general plan of counter-expansion of Japanese imperialism and communism toward Southeast Asia which is an area gravely concerned for our Country's future development. This general plan should take into consideration various fields such as, diplomatic, cultural, religious, economic and other activities.

two: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry in coordination with Foreign Ministry's general plan should formulate a detailed plan of exploiting the trade activities in Southeast Asia.

There have been few activities of trade between Korea and Viet Nam since I returned from Seoul.

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Some were induced by either Foreign Ministry or Ministry of Commerce and Industry. There were also few cases which made direct contact with us. These activities are all too piecemeal and too little. We need a concrete guidance for the trade activities, so that this Legation could be in a position to assist and supervise the trade activities, but not directly dealing with it.

three: To counter the imminent economic offensive toward Southeast Asia and to counter their isolating tactics, it may be advisable that we dispatch an official Good-will Mission organized with a high ranking and able official. Either one of former Prime Ministers who possess high knowledge of the international affairs or one of the Ambassadors who are well known internationally, would be a good choice.

I must admit that my last informal trip was a path-finder characteristic one; I was not able to do all what we expected. An official Good-will Mission with concrete proposals will certainly accomplish more. I, as one of the path-finders, will always be available to serve for this cause.

As far as the timing of this recommended dispatching of an official Good-will Mission is concerned, it may vary as follows:

- one, prior to the Japanese Mission, however, has to be a very hurried one;
- two, after the Japanese Mission with more time for preparation and for adjustment of the situation.

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All these views and suggestions I humbly stated above, are stemmed from my own consciousness and patriotism; I beg Your Excellency to forgive me if there is something unfit to the present situation.

4. Viet Nam Affairs

a. President of Viet Nam to Visit Australia.

A communique of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has announced the forthcoming visit of the President of Viet Nam to Australia. The communique says:

"At the invitation of the Australian government, the President of the Republic of Viet Nam will visit Australia as a State guest, from September 2 to September 8, 1957.

During his stay in Australia, Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem will visit in particular Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.

Australia will be thus the second non-Asian country, the first one being the United States, which the Chief executive of Viet Nam visits. This fact is a clear testimonial of close friendly relations between the two countries, relations which will be further tightened by the forthcoming state visit of the President to Australia."

b. The Last Ten (10) Refugee Resettlement Centers Integrated into Province's Administration.

The gigantic task of resettling the nearly one million refugees who escaped the horrible regime of Communists from North Viet Nam, has been terminated by announcing the last ten (10) resettlement centers integrated into local administration

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on July 15th, 1957. The foresighted plan itself and the energetic execution by the Government were the fundamentals for this success. The enthusiastic and apprehensive cooperation from the refugee themselves, made the execution of the plan possible. Almost all the foreigners who visited those resettlement centers praised the effective execution of this gigantic task very very highly. A great victory against communist's tyranny.

c. Vietnamese Minister Duong-Van-Duc called on this Legation.

Minister Duong-Van-Duc returned to Saigon on Tuesday July 16th. The next day he called on this Legation and told me that he had resigned his diplomatic post and that he will return to Army life.

He expressed his gratitude and satisfaction for his happy stay in our Country. He further said that although it was a very short period, less than one year, he became a real true friend of Korea.

He plans to stay here until the first part of August and then proceed to U.S.A. On his way he will visit Seoul again. He is hoping that his superiors will approve his marriage to the said German girl and he will visit Seoul again in order to pick up his new bride and take her to U.S.A.

I was sorry that I was not informed of his arrival, therefore I did not go to meet him at the airport. However, I did invite him for lunch sometime during next week. There is no news about his successor yet.

d. Vietnamese Government Plans to Send a Good-Will Mission to Korea.

The outgoing Minister Duong-Van-Duc told me that he made a suggestion to his Foreign Minister of sending a Good-will

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Mission to Korea. The other day at a gathering, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister told me about the said suggestion and further indicated that he had already submitted the recommendation to the President.

5. Social Activities

a. Sunday evening, July 14th, my staff and I were invited to attend the French Ambassador's reception on the occasion of Fete Nationale. We congratulated the Ambassador on this great day.

b. Wednesday, July 17th, Vietnamese Minister Duong-Van-Duc called on me to announce his return from our Country.

In closing this report, allow me to mention a few words on the suggestion made by our friends of APACL of Hong Kong Chapter. Their suggestion is: to form a Good-will Mission of two or three people to attend the forthcoming celebrations of August Fifteenth. The people are all prominent writers. Among them Mr. Ye Ten Sung 葉天生 is a prominent member of APACL in Hong Kong, who attended our first Chin-hoi Conference. Mr. Chen Siao We 陳孝威 is a famous publisher who, during World War II published his small but very firm anti-Japanese articles and now publishes a very firm anti-Communist paper "The Observatory Review" (天文臺). This gentleman together with his paper is well known and respected by the oversea Chinese. Your Excellency sent a telegram of congratulation to him through our Consul General in Hong Kong two years ago on the occasion of the paper's 18th anniversary.

Mrs. Lee Chien 李健 may be able to join the above mentioned two gentlemen, if her school works allow her to do so. Mrs. Lee together with Mr. Ye Ten Sung translated Dr. Oliver's book "The Man Behind the Myth".

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The above mentioned three people attended the APACL Meeting in Saigon recently.

Despite the peculiar circumstances which exist in Hong Kong, the APACL of Hong Kong Chapter is trying to do more work. They expressed the regret that the publications in Hong Kong are not quite favourable to the Republic of Korea. They told me that they may be able to serve more in the publication work if they have an opportunity to see for themselves the progress which we made since the Chin-hai Conference in 1954. I can assure Your Excellency that they are all very good friends of Korea and their personality is also respectful.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem,

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin

Choi Duk Shin
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of Republic of Korea to Viet Nam

His Excellency,
President of Republic of Korea.

Attachments: 1. Copy of a letter from Thailand Prime Minister
 2. Newsclipping
 3. What Happened in Vietnam