

July 4, 1957
**CDS Report No. 46 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on recent South Vietnamese affairs, including the invitation to Washington's Nuclear Cooperation Conference, and news on the conflict in Laos.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

CDS REPORT NO. 46

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report as follows:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. Vietnam Affairs
3. News from Laos
4. Social Activities

1. Receipt of Instructions.

In the last pouch there were Instructions No. 70, which is an acknowledgment of receipt of the Weekly Report No. 41 and 42; No. 71 which is an acknowledgment of the Weekly Report No. 44; and No. 72 with an enclosure of THE KOREA CORRESPONDENT No. 80.

I sincerely appreciate all these instructions which Your Excellency has issued to me and I will act accordingly.

A confidential report of the Vietnamese interpretation of the anti-American riot in Formosa could be only submitted by next pouch, because of lack of time to collect the materials.

2. Vietnam Affairs.

a. Vietnam is invited to attend Washington Nuclear Cooperation Conference.

The Republic of Vietnam is reported to be listed as one of the sixteen Asian countries to attend the U.S. sponsored three-day conference on the establishment of Asian Regional Nuclear Research Center in Manila, to be held in Washington on July 8, 1957. This news item will be attached to the newsclipping.

I am sorry to report that I could not find the name of our beloved nation on the list.

Not such

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b. The Vietnamese Goodwill Mission to Malaya has returned on June 29. The essence of his statement declared by the Chief of the mission is as follows:

(i) After the independence celebration of the Malaya Federation on August 3, 1957, the two governments of the Republic of Vietnam and the Malaya Federation will exchange diplomatic missions.

(ii) The Chief Minister of the Malay Federation will visit Vietnam and, beforehand, he will send to Vietnam a delegation composed of high-ranking officials to observe branches of activities of Vietnam and lay down the basis for an economic exchange between the two countries.

(iii) The Malay Government will also send a delegation to take part in the conference of the Colombo Plan which will be held in Saigon this coming October.

(iv) To show Vietnam's fellow-feelings and to share the joy of the Malay people, Vietnam will send a delegation to attend the Malay Independence celebrations.

c. Vietnam participation in the conference of Asian Broadcasters.

On June 28 a Vietnamese two-man delegation flew to Tokyo to participate in the Asian People's Radio Broadcasting and Television Conference. In his speech the Vietnamese chief delegate said:

"First we must do all within our power to combat the poisonous and distorted ideas which international communism tries to spread among the poorly educated and misinformed. Our best approach to this problem is to disseminate the truth about communism, about Vietnam, and about the nations of the free world ..
....."

d. Vietnam to participate in the 5th W.F.T.U.C. Congress.

Vietnam is sending a one-man delegation to participate in the

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5th Congress of the World Free Trade Union Confederation (W.F.T.U.C.) which will be held in Tunis.

Before his departure the Vietnamese delegate, Secretary General of the Vietnam Labour Union, declared:

"The 5th W.F.T.U.C.'s congress is to deal mainly with the situation of under-developed countries that are recently freed from colonialist oppression, in Asia as well as Africa. This is a good opportunity for both the Africans and Asians to show their solidarity from the viewpoint of safeguarding their intellectual, moral and material values.

"I will strive to be helpful to the Vietnamese labouring class in submitting to this world congress a project devised to help in the improvement of workers living standards and development of free syndicalism in our country."

e. Vietnamese Delegation to attend World Conference of Public Education.

A four-man delegation has left Saigon on July 2nd for Geneva where it will attend the 20th World Conference on Public Education.

f. Vietnamese mission to study police organization and activities in Singapore, Malaya and Thailand.

A three-member Vietnamese mission in charge of the study of the organization and activities of police formation centers in Singapore, Malaya and Thailand, started its tour on July 1st.

According to well-informed sources, the Vietnamese Government is considering the creation of a national police and the agents of this branch/with the maximum of technical and professional knowledge.

It is obvious that the Vietnamese Government is seeking every opportunity to participate in the international conferences and tries to get along with as many nations as possible. Her popularity in international society has increased rapidly since 1954, and is continuing to increase.

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g. Vietnamese Handicraft to be developed with aid from USOM.

Previously, Vietnamese handicraft activities were concentrated in the North. With the division of the country in 1954, thousands of Tonkinese artisans fled from the Communist-held territory to the free South where they resumed practicing their skills. However, there was no organization prepared to service such trades and selling their products in the South.

Now the survey of Vietnamese handicrafts last year by Russell Wright, well-known American industrial designer, has resulted in the creation of a USOM project to promote products of cottage industries for local consumption and export. To finance the project, the U.S. Operations Mission (USOM) will contribute US\$ 10,000 for procurement of tools and small machines in addition to US \$ 50,000 for technical assistance and the Vietnamese Government will assign 1,050,000 piasters (US\$ 14,000) to supply working capital.

h. The French still maintains an "Economic and Technical Aid Mission to Vietnam", and the French Government has recently appointed Mr. Roger Kleinpeter as the Chief of the Mission. Mr. Kleinpeter was Chief Engineer of Special Class of Industrial techniques of France overseas.

i. The Vietnamese trade and industrial mission is making an extensive tour of France. The Mission was invited by the French National Center of Foreign trade on the occasion of the international fair of Paris.

There are many signs that the relationship between France and Vietnam is improving. France will maintain her economic tie with Vietnam. Since France shows so much friendly attitude and tries to avoid the impression of colonialism, it gradually gives a good impression to the Vietnamese.

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It seems to me that the Vietnamese rather like to keep the already existing and accustomed ties of economy with France than change into so-called "co-prosperity" with Japan.

There is still no sign that the problem of reparation between Japan and Vietnam will be settled in the near future.

1. Vietnamese Minister Doung -van-Duc

There has been information stating that the Vietnamese Minister Doung-van-Duc, as a permanent two-star general in the active role, is on the list of attending Command and Staff College in the United States. His name may be dropped from this list if he insists to remain as a diplomatic representative in our country.

From a well-informed source we have learned that the Vietnamese Minister has requested to return to his country and the Foreign Minister Vu-van-Mau is still considering his request.

I cannot tell at this moment if his request of returning has some connection with his decision on the question of schooling in the U.S.A. or is just for a "routine consultation".

3. News from Laos.

As I reported in my last report the one-month old political crises of Laos has remained unsolved. As time was running into the month of July the Premier -designate made the last attempt to "form a cabinet which will be satisfactory to all" and "let everybody be happy". He has presented the list of his government to the National Assembly for approval on July 3. On this list the former Prime Minister Prince Souvanna Phouma holds the Minister of Foreign Affairs, of National Defense and also of Veterans Affairs. And the staunch anti-Communist leader, Mr. Katay Don Sasorith, who has been defeated by being short of one vote to form a cabinet, holds the Minister of Interior and Social Welfare.

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On July 4th, the Premier-designate has delivered a prepared investiture speech before the National Assembly. According to the contents of this investiture speech I personally feel that his government's policy will be a much worse one than the former Premier Prince Sauvanna Phouma's one. The only hope is that the staunch anti-Communist leader Mr. Katay Don Sasorith will lead his party to oppose it.

The AFP news item showed in its last paragraph:

"Meanwhile, well informed circles stamped out all possibility that Souvannavong Cabinet will obtain the 17-vote majority necessary for investiture."

I attach the whole news item of AFP to the newsclipping for Your Excellency's reference.

5. Social Activities.

a. On July 1, the Vietnam Air Force celebrated her "Air Force Day". Our Military Attache attended the celebration ceremony before noon and I, accompanied by my Military Attache, Lt. Colonel Lee, attended the evening reception.

b. The same evening I was invited by the Canadian Commissioner of the International Supervisory Commission for Vietnam to a reception to celebrate Canada's National Day.

c. On July 2, I returned my call on the German Charge d'Affaires at his office.

d. On July 3, I was invited to a reception given by La Directeur de la societe VINACO.

e. On July 4, the Minister of the Philippine Republic, Mr. Mariano Ezpeleta, invited all the dignitaries in Saigon to a reception on the occasion of the Eleventh Anniversary of Philippine Independence. I was accompanied by my Secretary Sohn and Military Attache Lt Colonel Lee to attend the reception and rendered our greetings to our Filippino friends.

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It is to be noted that the same day is also Independence Day for the U.S.A. However, the new U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam decided not to give a reception on their Independence Day for the reasons that firstly, it is the rainy season in this area and as there are a very large number of Americans in Saigon - over 2000 - he felt that the space indoors in the Residence could not hold both the number of dignitaries to be invited to such an official function and the very large number of Americans. Secondly, that in the U.S.A. Independence Day is usually a family home day and it was suggested that probably the American families would care to celebrate their special day in the custom most familiar to them. However, the new Ambassador has announced that Washington's Birthday on February 12th will be observed as the official celebration day of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and as this day occurs in good weather all can be invited.

At the closing of this report I would like to mention a few words on the splendid work rendered by the Military Attache of my Legation, Lt Colonel Teak Keun Lee.

Since Colonel Lee was assigned to Vietnam last year, he has performed his duty as a Military Attache in a remarkable manner. His relationship with the Vietnamese Armed Forces personnel is wonderful. The Vietnamese officers especially admire him for his ability to learn to speak their language. Lt Colonel Lee is probably the only one of the foreign military attaches who has tried to learn the Vietnamese language and who can speak it quite understandably.

Lt Colonel Lee has also established a very good system of exchanging information with the U.S. Military Attache.

He is our Army officer, but acts as Air and Navy Attache too. The U.S. Military Attache is composed of separate personnel from Army, Navy and the Air Force.

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His periodic reports go to the Ministry of National Defense and to the other military headquarters. His reports have been praised by the military authorities very highly. A responsible officer in army headquarters told me that Lt Colonel Lee's form of report is used as an example of report and distributed to other military attaches abroad.

Beside his regular military attache's work he has been collecting the information of Vietnam and putting the item into a periodic report "What Happened in Vietnam". This periodic report has continued since June of last year and he has distributed it to the military headquarters only. However, it seems to me that the periodic collection of news could also be for use of Your Excellency's office as well as Foreign Ministry and also the Office of Public Information. From this week on we will continue to submit this collection of news items "What Happened in Vietnam" to Your Excellency's office.

There is an "Abbreviation Dictionary" re-mimeographed by the Military Attache, also enclosed with this report for use of Your Excellency's office.

In view of the splendid contribution in his work that Lt Colonel Lee rendered last year and in view of the fact that all Chief Military Attaches of other Foreign countries are holding the rank of full colonel and in further view of the fact that he has been a fighter with excellent records and despite his several severe wounds which he received, he endeavours to the best of his ability, I have the honour to recommend to Your Excellency that Lt Colonel Teak Keun Lee

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is qualified for promotion to rank of full Colonel.

Your Excellency's speech on the occasion of June 25th has appeared in the only Vietnamese-owned French paper "La Gazette" which I attach in the newsclipping.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem,

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin

Choi, Duk Shin
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of Korea to Vietnam

His Excellency

President of Republic of Korea.

Attachments: 1. Newsclipping
2. "What Happened in Vietnam"
3. Abbreviation Dictionary

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