

June 27, 1957
**CDS Report No. 45 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

Citation:

"CDS Report No. 45 from Choi Duk Shin to the President (Syngman Rhee)", June 27, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-331-055, 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/120958>

Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on the observance of June 25th, Japanese local interference with the Korean publications, recent Vietnam affairs, and news from Laos and Cambodia.

Credits:

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

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

June 27, 1957

CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT NO.45

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No.45 covering the following points:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. Observance of the day of June Twenty-Fifth (25th)
3. Our Publications Work in Saigon
4. Vietnam Affairs
5. News from Laos and Cambodia
6. Social Activities

1. Receipt of Instructions

In the pouch received by this Legation on June 25th were Instruction Paper No.69 and also a copy of an English translation of Your Excellency's speech to be delivered on June 25th. This Legation was also notified by cable of the change to be made. I confirm that the correction was made as directed.

2. Observance of the day of June Twenty-Fifth (25th)

On this day of observance this Legation summoned to the Residence the compatriots and together with the members of the Legation observed this day with a very short but solemn ceremony followed by a briefing by the Military Attache.

On this heartbroken sorrowful occasion I and the members of this Legation together with our compatriots with great reverence again swore to Your Excellency our loyalty to our

country and to follow the leadership of Your Excellency to fight until the recovery of the whole of our territory from the Reds is achieved.

3. Our Publications Work in Saigon

Because of the untiring efforts of my staff and the cooperation of the press and newspapers in Saigon, we have accomplished much work on our publications in the past one year.

On June 1st of last year we started our weekly publication "Korea-Vietnam News Round-up". Up to this week we have published 45 numbers of the Saigon edition and also 45 numbers of the Seoul edition. In the Saigon edition we have tried to put in as many materials as possible from our country.

These weekly publications are widely distributed to Vietnamese Government high-ranking officials and newspapers, news agencies and also to the diplomatic missions. I can proudly report that these publications are received with much welcome from all agencies who receive them. There are many requests coming in each day which we cannot afford to fill at this time. *Why not (It, maybe because of money shortage of help.)*

One incident, although a minor one, proves the effectiveness of these publications. Some press man told us privately that the Press Attache of the Japanese Embassy asked him not to give favor to the Koreans in attacking Japan. I understand the Japanese Embassy had also sent her Press Attache to the Vietnamese Information Ministry and talked to them on this matter. This means our publications have aroused much attention, and particularly by the Japanese here. I have found,

-3-

✓ because of the recent Japanese Press Attache's activities, the newspapers are hesitating to print those words concerning our policy toward Japan. I also know that the Japanese will not cease their efforts to disturb our publications work. I assure Your Excellency that our Legation will continue to do our best on the publications.

I have given much thought to strengthening the quality and quantity of this work. I wish that I could increase the distribution, not only in Vietnam, but also to the countries in South East Asia where I have just visited.

Insofar as the contents of the publications are concerned I am not entirely satisfied with the results. I wish that I could put in more materials and also it is important that we improve on the editing.

This all sums up in my mind the express wish that we could have a very good Information Service Center to be organized in this Legation. Then this information center could be utilized to cover the whole of this part of the world.

If Your Excellency approves of this in principle I would like to make more concrete recommendations as follow:

- a. Information Service Officer (or Press Officer) be attached to this Legation in charge of the public information service and deal with the press. Presently, Secretary Sohn Byung-Sik is in charge of these matters and has to assist him only one Vietnamese employee. His assistant is doing mainly the translations from English to French and vice versa.

725

-4-

b. Special budget for this Information Service to be allocated for this Legation.

c. In order to concentrate efforts on the Saigon edition which actually introduce our affairs to foreigners and on the Seoul edition in which we introduce Vietnamese affairs to Korea may terminate after a few more editions will be done.

REC'D 3

The above mentioned suggestions are made according to the past one year's experience and also in view of the growing importance of the information service in Vietnam as well as in the whole area of South and South East Asia.

I humbly beg Your Excellency's favorable considerations.

4. Vietnam Affairs.

a. Vietnam celebrated "World Veteran's Day".

On Sunday morning, June 23, the Vietnamese Veterans Legion celebrated World Veterans Day with solemn activities. As a veteran anti-Japanese soldier of World War II and of the recent anti-Communist war, I was the only diplomat invited to attend the official ceremony.

The Vietnamese Veteran Legion entered the world organization only in last year's Brussel meeting together with the Korean Veteran Legion. I feel these worldwide organizations have their importance in the present world politics and we should also have a well-managed organization which could make very close contact with their sister organizations of other nations. In this way, if we have to send a delegation to attend any conference or meeting, we would have a strong team to represent it.

I have made a separate report on this "World Veteran's Day in Vietnam to the Chairman of the Executive Committee of our Veteran Legion, Lt General Kim Il-Hwan (Ret).

126

b. Republic of Vietnam Goodwill Delegation to Malaya.

At the invitation of the Malayan Government a Goodwill Mission of the Republic of Vietnam is making a four-day goodwill visit to the Federation of Malaya commencing on June 25th.

This eight-member mission is headed by the Minister for Information and Youth, Mr. Tran-Chanh-Thanh. The Acting Defense Minister (the President still holds the portfolio of Minister for National Defense) Mr. Tran-Trung-Dung is also a member of this mission.

c. Press Conference of Vice-President and the Chinese Problem in Vietnam.

On the morning of June 22, Mr. Nguyen-Ngoc-Tho, Vice President of Vietnam, held a press conference in the name of Minister for National Economy. During this conference, many questions concerning the enforcement of Ordinance No.53 dated June 9, 1956, on the ban of the eleven professions open to foreigners, were brought out.

In reply the Vice President said: "The measure is but a logical consequence of the Vietnamese Government's duty which is to improve the living standards of the Vietnamese people."

He further said: "Present difficulties most likely originate from the fact that Vietnamese importers lack capital. To counteract the inactivity of Chinese capital, the National Economy Ministry started to reimburse their caution-money some months ago."

He stated with full confidence: "that present difficulties the goods distribution has to cope with, due to Chinese reaction, will be overcome within a short time."

In conclusion, he stressed that the duty of the Vietnamese is to cooperate with the Government with a view toward working for the welfare of the people and for an independent economy.

-6-

In an article called "Reasons for banning Foreign Nationals from eleven trades", the Vietnam press says: "Today as Vietnam recovers her political independence, she is bound to recover her economic independence accordingly."

The same press then pointed out the multifold objectives of Ordinance No.53 (to ban eleven professions from foreigners) and further says: "These government measures with long-range economic objective will enable the Vietnamese people to seek sure jobs and to handle the national commerce".

In still another article of Vietnam Press, the government-owned organ, made a study of "the Chinese problem in Vietnam". This study justified the act of the Vietnamese Government's nationalization policy toward the Chinese born in Vietnam by saying that the Republic of Vietnam applies in accordance with international law the principle of "jus soli". This study then advised each Chinese to adopt the Vietnamese nationality by saying "he is an additional anti-Communist combatant".

In view of the importance of the above-mentioned press conference and the articles concerning the Chinese problem, I humbly copied all the three quoted and attach them to the newsclipping.

d. Gigantic Task of Resettlement of Refugees in Vietnam is near an end.

In a report of last year I stated that the Vietnamese Government with the cooperation of the United States Operation Mission was endeavouring to encourage the refugees to make themselves "self sufficient" and to become a part of the communities in which they were living. In this way, they would be ordinary people and would no longer be referred to nor treated as refugees. Following this endeavour on the part of the government the refugee resettlement centers at the beginning of this year announced one by one that they were ready to be integrated into the provincial administration. One responsible official told me that the original plan

200

-7-

called for ending this operation at the end of August of 1957. It would appear that this operation will cease to operate at the end of July, one month ahead of the scheduled date of termination.

The Vietnamese officials and the Americans who directly dealt with this gigantic task are proud of their long-range view of this problem. They had planned to move these refugees to the rural places which needed to be cultivated and which were also politically important. The Communists infiltration could not actively work in these places where the organized groups of refugees had moved in.

The resettlement and rehabilitation of one million refugees from North Vietnam will remain a very successful task and accomplishment in the new Republic of Vietnam's history.

5. News from Laos and Cambodia.

a. Cambodia has banned 18 kinds of professions from Foreigners.

As a result of this action on the part of the Cambodian Government, many Vietnamese are now unemployed. There are already 13 families of 48 Vietnamese returning to Vietnam. They were chauffeurs; hairdressers; dockers; jewelers, etc. They now desire to be repatriated.

The Government of Vietnam has put out relief funds for those Vietnamese citizens in Cambodia and also plan to allot some rice-fields in the Caisan area to those Vietnamese nationals repatriated from Cambodia. Each family will be given an average of three hectares of farmland and the necessary farm tools.

b. Crown Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia has resigned his Premiership.

It was only about two and a half months ago this Crown Prince of Cambodia has again and again formed his government by himself.

-8-

Now he has resigned it for the reason of his ill health. The King has accepted his son's resignation. However, it is reported that the recently resigned Prime Minister will leave for France after July 15. The reason is apparently to "watch" the forming of a new cabinet of his own choice before he leaves for the French Riviera.

c. Laotian Cabinet crises remains unsolved.

It was learned that the Laotian Crown Prince Savang Vathana last weekend designated another political leader, Mr. Bong Souvanavong to form a cabinet after the staunch anti-Communist leader, Mr. Katay's failure in forming one. At first it seemed to have a good chance of success by the newly designated leader to solve the political crises of the tiny Kingdom. However, up to this time of writing this report, there has been no optimistic news from Laos whatsoever. On the contrary, the AFP report from the capital of Laos says:

"Well-informed circles rule out all speculation that a solution could be brought about, before the weekend."

Thus the 27-day old political crises remains unsolved.

6. Social Activities.

a. Before noon on June 21, the Secretary of State for Agrarian Reform, Do van Cong, who had been wounded in the attempted assassination of the President last year, called on me at my Legation. He came to express his gratitude for the call I had made on him at his bedside in the hospital. He asked me to convey his profound gratitude for the kind consideration and wishes of Your Excellency which I conveyed to him soon after his accident. His wound is recovering slowly and it will be sometime before he will be completely recovered. It is possible he said he may have to go abroad in order to get complete treatment. It was most kind of him to come to visit me while he is still not well. 2770

-9-

b. On Friday afternoon, June 21, the German Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Toby A. Tafel, called on me to pay his courtesy call on the occasion of the opening of his Legation in Vietnam. I congratulated him on his new assignment. We also exchanged felicitations with each other on the news of the opening of our diplomatic missions in Seoul and Bonn.

In general conversation I told him that I had studied the German language before the Sino-Japan war with the preparatory purpose of studying in Germany. I said that I had regretted very much Japan's aggression into China in 1937 had stopped my going to his country. However, I told him that the aggression of Japan in 1937 was the starting point of Japan's downfall and that I felt much relieved when I found that the Sino-Japan war and later the war in the Pacific had given us the opportunity of our liberty and freedom.

I told him that I hoped some day I could go to his country to see the progress they have made in the recent years. He told me that he did not know much about our country. Recently, however, he had got some materials from Dr. Hertz in Seoul. It seemed to him that Dr. Hertz, the German diplomat in Seoul, is very interested in our cultures and is trying to study our history and culture from many different angles.

I then pointed on our map to explain to him the war situation in our country. He seemed to take a keen interest in our problem and expressed the hope that some day he may come to visit our country.

Our conversation lasted about 30 minutes.

c. On June 21 in the afternoon I was invited to see a Vietnamese movie "We want to Live" by the Free Pacific Agency.

-10-

d. In the evening of June 22 I attended a reception given by the U.S. Air Attaché and his wife.

e. On June 24, the National Day of Thailand, I attended the reception of the Thai Ambassador in the evening and also exchanged notes of greetings.

f. On Wednesday, June 26, I gave a luncheon party in honour of the departing Deputy Chief of USOM, Mr. Lavergne. The U.S. Ambassador headed the table and the Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly and also the Governor of the National Bank of Vietnam were dignitaries on the Vietnam side.

g. In the evening of June 26, I attended a reception given by the U.P. correspondent on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the United Press. I congratulated on this occasion Mr. Albert F. Kaff, who was in Korea in 1953, to cover the Pammunjon talks.

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 Vietnam.

His Excellency

President of Republic of Korea.

Attachments : 1. Photos Album and Newsclipping.

P.S. Since writing this report I have seen the French Journal (a very important paper) which has carried the speech of Your Excellency and which I attach in the newsclipping also. 232