

August 29, 1957
**SP Report No. 54-A from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

In addition to his previous report, Choi Duk Shin continues to discuss preparations for President Diem's visit to South Korea.

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CONFIDENTIAL

SP - REPORT NO.054-A

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit the second Special Report dealing with President Ngo's visit.

I will number the successive reports on this matter as SP Reports No.054-B, No.054-C etc.

In my Weekly Report No.053, I indicated that the President of Viet-Nam changed his visiting program to an earlier date, and in my cable of August 26 and SP Report No.054 I reported that the President wishes to make his 3 day State visit from September 19 through 21 excluding two travelling days.

On August 28th at 1030 hours, I was granted an audience by the President, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister was accompanying the President.

Firstly, I thanked His Excellency for his kind offer of donation to our flood victims. He expressed his deep concern for the recent flood disasters and prayed to God for a prompt restoration. He said this is only a gesture to show the solidarity of our two Nations.

After the above short conversation, I told him that I was expecting to receive a definite reply from my Government in a few days. However, the purpose of this call was to serve his consultation on the forthcoming visit to my country. I had with me several pictorial publications and pamphlets of our country. He appreciated that I had brought these to him at this time.

The main points of our conversation were the following:

a. Confirmation of the proposed dates. The President wishes to have it before his departure for Australia, that is first day of September. I had to cable Your Excellency's office as follows:

'WISH OBTAIN BEFORE SATURDAY REPLY REGARDING
CABLE DATED 26.'

b. Composition of the Party. The definite list has not been made yet, however, he indicated that there will be experts from military, economic, industrial, financial and cultural fields. I was told privately by the acting Defence Minister that he will be a member of the Presidential suite.

c. Clothing. He prefers to follow our protocol. He mentioned that because Thailand is a Kingdom, he had to take more trouble on the clothing. He prefers to have similar clothing as he had during his visit to U.S.A. Only the President will take the Vietnamese national costume, in case he has to wear it on one or two formal occasions.

d. Languages. He told me that he made his formal speeches in English when he visited U.S.A., however, when he was in Thailand, he had to use his own Vietnamese language and no interpreter to translate. He prefers to use English at formal occasions so more people will understand from either side.

However, in private talks with Your Excellency and with other officials, he would like to use French and asked if we will select some French language interpreter available for him. This interpreter should be highly qualified and also absolutely trustworthy. Besides this principal interpreter who will act mainly for conversations between both Presidents, it would be desirable if more French interpreters are available for liaison between other officials of both Governments. All officials in the Vietnamese President's party are qualified to speak good French.

e. His Excellency wishes to speak to National Assembly. The President asked me if the National Assembly will be in session at the time of his visit. To this question I told him that I doubt if National Assembly will have its regular session at that time. However, I said I will ask if it is possible to have a special session to greet him. To this, I humbly suggest that Your Excellency notify the Speaker of National Assembly, if Your Excellency deems the necessity to add this item to the program.



- 3 -

f. Topic subjects to be included in the program. As indicated in his selection of the members of his suite, he hopes to inspect during his stay the following:

- (1) Military forces.
- (2) Industrial development, which he will find most interesting.
- (3) Our cultural field.

g. Vital curriculum of our dignitaries is requested. His Excellency, the President asked if the curriculum of our Cabinet members and other dignitaries could be available for him before his arrival.

The above mentioned points directly bearing with the programming of the visit of the President of Viet-Nam, were discussed during the same audience.

I will continue to report the situation concerning the Vietnamese Presidential visit to our country as it develops.

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.