

August 26, 1957
**SP Report No. 54 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on the plans for President Diem's proposed visit to South Korea.

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CONFIDENTIAL

SP REPORT NO. 054

Excellency,

This Special Report No.054 will mainly cover the visit of President Ngo-Dinh-Diem to our country.

This morning at 1100 hours the Foreign Minister of Vietnamese Government invited me to come to his office to inform me of the following two news:

1. The President offers to donate 500,000 Piasters to our country for the victims of the recent flood.
2. The President expresses his wish to make his State-visit on September 19th through 21st excluding the travelling days, namely the 18th for going to our country and the 22nd for returning to Viet-Nam.

The Foreign Minister asked me if I could give him confirmation of the dates before his President proceeds to Australia, that is first day of September. I had to cable Your Excellency in code as follows:

'VIETNAM FORMIN INFORMED THIS MORNING BISTOP
PRESIDENTIAL VISIT EXPECTING ON SEPTEMBER 19
THROUGH 21 EXCLUDING TWO TRAVELLING DAYS PD
PLEASE WIRE URGENTLY WHETHER THE PERIOD IS
ACCEPTABLE PD SPECIAL REPORT FOLLOWS'

I wish to give more details of the conversation we had.

1. President's donation to the flood victims. I expressed profound gratitude to his President and his Government. In

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reply he expressed his sorrow for the flood disasters and prayed for our flood victims. He further told me that this is an expression of solidarity by his President toward our country and people.

2. The Presidential visit. The essentials of our conversation on this matter were:

- a. Dates. He had formally informed me of the wish of his President to visit Your Excellency earlier than the dates he had indicated us previously which I have reported in Report No.053. When he learned that the travelling time will be about 10 to 15 hours from Viet-Nam to Korea, and there is also a time difference of about one and half hours, he told me that September 18th will be for going to Korea and September 22nd for returning to Viet-Nam.
- b. Programs. For the preparations of this trip the Vietnamese Foreign Minister asked me to give the program for this visit at an earlier date in order to meet the preparations of the texts of speeches that will be delivered by the President during his visit. The Foreign Minister specially mentioned:
- (1) how many speeches will be delivered by his President;
- (2) on what occasions;
- (3) the keypoints of the speeches by Your Excellency and other dignitaries at those occasions.
- c. Official announcement. The Vietnamese Foreign Minister's opinion is that we make simultaneous announcements in Seoul and in Saigon after the President returns from Australia, which will be after September 10th. Because the dates are moved to earlier dates, I

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believe we should agree with his opinion on the matter of official announcement.

d. Composition of the Presidential suite. The Foreign Minister told me that the Presidential party will be composed of about 8 to 10 men. I expressed the wish that the Foreign Minister himself be among the Presidential suite. He told me that it would be a good thing for him to be included in the same party. However, it is doubtful because he is appointed as Chief Delegate of the Vietnamese Delegation to Colombo Plan conference.

I hope this Special Report can be used in our preparations for the visit of the President of Viet-Nam to our country. I assure Your Excellency that I will continue to report on the development of this matter.

In closing permit me to ask Your Excellency's approval of dispatching my Military Attache to Seoul about one week or ten days prior to the set date. He can serve as my representative in the preparations of the program and he will also serve as a principal liaison officers during President Ngo-Dinh-Diem's stay in our country.

As for myself, I believe it is better that I arrive a few days earlier in our country, if there is no special reason for me to travel with the President on the same plane.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem.

Respectfully,



Choi Duk Shin
Minister to Viet-Nam

His Excellency,
President of Republic of Korea.