

**August 29, 1957**  
**CDS Report No. 55 from Choi Duk Shin to the  
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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**Summary:**

Choi Duk Shin reports on South Korea-South Vietnam trade activities and recent Vietnamese affairs.

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August 29, 1957

CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT NO. 055

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit this Weekly Report No.055, which will cover the following points:

1. Receipt of Instructions.
2. Korea - Viet-Nam Trade.
3. Viet-Nam Affairs.
4. Social Activities.

1. Receipt of Instructions.

In this week's pouch I received Instructions Nos.85, 86, 87 and also a "strickly confidential" letter dated August 21, 1957, and I have destroyed the enclosed copy of Vice Foreign Minister's report. All the copies of information on Japan sent by Your Excellency's office are much appreciated.

With regardsto our attending the Malayan Independence ceremony, I received Your Excellency's cable number Six on August 23rd and Instruction No.87 gave me more detailed informations on it. Although the British Ambassador to our country could not persuade his Government to invite us to the ceremony, the same Ambassador should be in a position to transmit our intention of recognition of Malaya. The reactions of Malayan people and leaders are good, unlike the pessimistic observation of Western officials. It would be wrong if certain Western diplomat said that Malaya will not invite any divided countries such as Korea, Viet-Nam and Germany. As I have reported in a previous report the Republic of Viet-Nam (South Viet-Nam) has been invited to the ceremony, she is a divided country lest she is invited, because the Vietnamese Government has long ago established a consulate in Singapore.

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With regards to the forthcoming visit of President Ngo-Dinh-Diem, I attach separate SP Reports No.054-A and No.054-B to this report.

2. Korea - Viet-Nam Trade.

I have the pleasure to report to Your Excellency that the trade between our two countries is starting a two-way traffic with mutual benefit. Today I received a report stating that our Exporters-Importers company called "TAE DONG CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD." has offered to a firm here in Saigon some "CHEMICAL PRODUCTS" called "Jallarbois" which is of Korean origin to serve as an essential element in medicine for "leprosy disease". The offer is worth \$15,008. U.S. Mr. Son told me that several months ago a businessman came to our Legation and asked if someone in Korea could sell him the above mentioned chemical product. Mr. Son checked our file and found the above mentioned firm which is dealing with this chemical product. We asked the same firm to send a sample and a price list. Finally this first trade through the mediation of this Legation was made.

The buyer of this chemical product in Saigon told us that in the past he bought it from Japan. He found the price high and the quality poor. He was quite satisfied with the quality of our sample and the price is lower than that of Japanese product. I hope that the chemical product of 16,000 kgs weight is as good as the sample, thus we can establish a firm confidence on our prospect of trade toward Viet-Nam and other countries in Southeast Asia.

In this connection I would like to mention again that our Hong-Sam (紅參) is praised very highly by the people here. Of course there may be some Paik-Sam (白參) and Hong-Sam (紅參) in Chinese pharmacies in scarce quantity, which probably was brought in from Hong Kong. I regret that there has been no single offer yet of our famous Hong-Sam to this country as well as Cambodia, Laos etc.

3. Viet-Nam Affairs.

a. An open statement by Mr. & Mrs. Ngo-Dinh-Nhu, the President's younger brother and his wife.

There was a rather strange open statement by the couple which appeared in Chinese and Vietnamese newspapers. Because this open 292

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statement has a great meaning behind the scene and it accidentally appeared at the same time as the recent issue of "Time" magazine August 26, 1957 page 22. I attach copy of this statement and a rough translation of it to the newsclipping.

b. Vietnamese Government aid to industrialists and craftsmen.

There is a news item stating:

"Viet-Nam's economy depends not only on its agricultural possibilities but also on a steady development of industry. Under the former regime, with no support and aid from the authorities, local industrialists and handicraftsmen could not display an intensive and fruitful activity. This situation has changed since the Republic Government has decided to bring aid to these industrialists and craftsmen".

This news item further illustrated how the Government aided them and concluded as follows:

"Of course there is no question of heavy industries for Viet-Nam for the time being. But this country must devote greater efforts toward its industrial development to meet local requirements in articles of every day use and at the same time to reduce the volume of its importation".

I attach the whole text of this news item to the newsclipping.

c. Messrs. Herter and Richards visited Saigon on their way to Malaya.

These two American personalities arrived in Saigon on August 28 at 5.30 P.M. and left Saigon on August 29 at 9.30 A.M. Their only activity in Viet-Nam this time was to pay their respects to the President before the President leaves for Australia to make a State-visit. These two American distinguished visitors will return to Saigon on September 8 for a few more days. I attach to the newsclipping, Viet-Nam Press dispatches on this visit.

4. Social Activities.

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a. On August 23, in the evening I was invited to attend a reception given by Mr. & Mrs. Anderson, Minister Counsellor of U.S. Embassy. This reception was to introduce Mr. & Mrs. Bowie, Counsellor of U.S. Embassy for political affairs.

b. August 24, in the evening I was invited to attend a "Bon Voyage" cocktail in honour of the Chief of Mission of C.A.R.E. Inc.

c. August 27, at 9.00 A.M. I was invited to attend the graduation ceremony for students of the National Institute of Administration. The President of the Republic of Viet-Nam presided over this ceremony. During this ceremony the President and other dignitaries delivered graduation diplomas to 47 students who are the first class to graduate from the National Institute of Administration. I also had the pleasure to deliver diplomas to two (2) students.

d. August 27, in the afternoon I attended a teaparty given by the Free Pacific Association to celebrate the inauguration of the Free Pacific Language Institute.

e. August 28, at 1030 I was granted an audience by the President.

f. August 28, in the evening the Minister of the Philippines gave a reception in honour of the Philippine Cultural Mission which is now touring Southeast Asian countries and will give Philippine's artistic performances.

g. August 29, in the evening, Secretary of State to the Presidency of the Republic of Viet-Nam invited me to an artistic exhibition of Philippine Cultural Mission. The President, Cabinet members and all heads of diplomatic and consulate missions were present.

h. August 29, in the evening the Consul General of Netherlands and Mrs. Ceulen invited me at a reception given on the occasion of their departure and for introducing the new Consul of Netherlands.

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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.

- Attachments:
1. SP Reports No.054-A and No.054-B.
  2. Newsclipping.
  3. What happened in Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos.