

October 25, 1956
**CDS Report No. 21 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on the arrival of General Chung and representatives from South Korea's Newsman Associations, and offers an update on Vietnamese affairs, including the drafting of South Vietnam's constitution.

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October 25th, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL.

CDS REPORT NO. 021

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No. 021 covering the following points:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. Submission of the Greetings of Your Excellency to His Excellency President Ngo Dinh Diem
3. Arrival of General Chung and Representatives of the Newsmen Association of Republic of Korea
4. Vietnam Affairs
5. Social Activities

1. Receipt of Instructions.

I wish to acknowledge with deepest thanks receipt of Your Excellency's Instruction No. 19 dated September 28, 1956 and No. 21 dated October 18, 1956. Because of the importance of dealing with Instruction papers, I regret to advise Your Excellency that I have not received Instruction No. 20 which should be between the two above-mentioned numbers. *Chesh*

2. Submission of Greetings from Your Excellency to His Excellency President Ngo Dinh Diem.

At ten o'clock on the morning of October 25th I was received by His Excellency President Ngo Dinh Diem of the Republic of Vietnam and submitted to His Excellency the cabled message of Greetings from Your Excellency. I submitted the Greetings with a letter of transmission reading as follows:

"Excellency,

I have the honor to submit to Your Excellency the following cabled message which my President His Excellency Dr. Syngman Rhee has charged me to convey to you:

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"ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PLEASE ACCEPT MY FELICITATIONS AND HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS PD MY PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT JOIN ME IN CORDIAL GOOD WISHES FOR THE CONTINUED PROGRESS OF YOUR STALWART NATION UNDER YOUR ABLE LEADERSHIP PD SYNGMAN RHEE"

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."

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

His Excellency
Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem
President of the Republic of Vietnam
S a i g o n."

His Excellency President Ngo Dinh Diem expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation for the message of greetings sent by Your Excellency.

3. Arrival of General Chung and Representatives of the Newsmen Association of the Republic of Korea.

a. Arrival of General Chung.

On the evening of October 23rd, General Chung and his two Aides arrived in the capitol of Vietnam. General Le Van Ty, Chief of General Staff of Vietnam; General Chung's old combat friend, U.S. General Williams; Representative for U.S. Ambassador Reinhardt, and representatives of the Government of Vietnam were present in the welcoming party. All members of this Legation and our compatriots in Saigon were also present.

General Chung was received with full-dress military honours. The band solemnly played first our National Anthem and the National Anthem of Vietnam.

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General Chung was received as a guest of the Government of Vietnam and is living in the Governmental guest house.

For many reasons his arrival has been sensational. He is the first governmental guest to arrive for the ceremonies. He will be the highest ranking among the military personnel on this occasion. His anti-Communist fighting record is a brilliant one and an account of his combat history has appeared in many newspapers here. I attach the newsclippings.

At this point I wish to acknowledge that I received through General Chung the encouragement and instructions of Your Excellency, and I wish to assure Your Excellency that I will do my best to fit Your Excellency's requirements.

On October 24 General Chung called on General Le Van Ty and the Acting Defense Minister. Before noon on the same day General Williams called on General Chung at the Guest House, and in the afternoon General Chung called on General Williams at his Headquarters thereby reciprocating his call.

On October 25 at 9.30 in the morning I accompanied General Chung in his call on the Foreign Minister, Mr. Vu Van Mau. We had a very long talk. At ten o'clock on October 25 I accompanied General Chung to Independence Palace where we were received by His Excellency President Ngo Dinh Diem. We had thirty minutes with His Excellency.

I would like to report further on his activities here in Vietnam in my next report in which I shall report on "Observance of the National Day of Vietnam".

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b. Arrival of Representatives of Newsmen.

At four o'clock on the morning of October 23rd, the Newsmen's representatives from Korea, Mr. Pyen Young-Lo, the Director of "The Korean Republic" and Mr. Hong Chong-In, the Chief Editor of the Chosen Ilbo, arrived in Saigon. I and representatives from the Vietnamese Pressmen Association welcomed them at the airport. They were officially invited, along with the journalists of 17 countries in Southeast Asia and Southern Pacific, to attend the First Anniversary of the Republic of Vietnam, considered as National Day, which will be celebrated on this coming October 26 through 28th.

On the morning of their arrival both Mr. Pyen and Mr. Hong made courtesy calls on the Minister of Information and Youth and the Chairman of the Pressmen Association and several important Vietnamese-owned newspapers.

It is to be noted that all expenses will be covered by the Vietnamese Government, even including the round-trip air fares. The Vietnamese Reception Committee for the Ceremonies is a well-organized group and their manner of assisting and arranging all details in connection with the reception of their guests is a most orderly one.

I believe the arrival of our two famous journalists here has made a good impression on the people of Vietnam and their welcome was a most impressive one. As in the case of General Chung our two journalists were also the first arrivals of the press representatives for the ceremonies.

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3. Vietnam Affairs.

a. Constituent Assembly.

Since the proclamation of the Constitution is to take place on October 26th and since any changes from the Assembly's draft on recommendation of the President of the Republic of Vietnam must be completed before that date, the Assembly is working day and night until the Constitution enters its final phase.

The President of Vietnam has studied the Draft Constitution prepared by the Constituent Assembly for about four months, and sent a message to the Assembly concerning the draft Constitution on the morning of October 16th.

As a consequence, the Assembly met on October 17th to open the debate and finalize the Draft Constitution. The time left for them was so short that the Assembly members had to work unceasingly. The Assembly completed its work on the Constitution yesterday.

The completed Constitution has not yet come to the hands of my Legation. However, in the English Weekly paper "The Times of Vietnam" on page 2 under the title "Constituent Assembly goes into Final Phase" gives a pretty good picture of the general remarks and specific recommendations of the President. I attach this newspaper with this report.

b. Read in Weekly Local Press.

(i) Highly praised by the Chinese paper "Da-Sha" (大夏) was Your Excellency's statement to the Youths and Students of the Asia Anti-Communist meeting. This paper placed special emphasis on Your Excellency's statement "that the most and only effective weapon to fight Communism is anti-Communists ideology". They especially praised Your Excellency mentioning "Confucianism". I attach this with this report. 141

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- (ii) Aid should take into account the real needs of the beneficiary.

One of the Vietnamese language newspapers called TAN DAN said in its editorial concerning the Foreign Aid problem the following:

"In summing up the brilliant results scored by the Republic of Vietnam during the last two years, specially the organization of the army and the resettlement of the refugees, we have the duty to pay tribute to the friendly people who have helped Vietnam so much.

"And we have the reason to believe that, before the achievements scored by the Ngo-Dinh-Diem administration, our friends will be disposed to acknowledge the immense efforts put forth by our government for the reconstruction of the country.

"In starting from the principle," the aid should take into account the possibilities of the one who gives it and also the real needs of the beneficiary", we deem that the moment has come where our friends should place in the first rank the aid that our present society needs (technical, economic aid and also aid to social works).

"It will be the path to follow to promote a stable republican regime.

"It will equally be the best strategy to struggle against communism."

- (iii) Attacking corruption.

One of the Vietnamese newspapers called TIEN PHONG said:

"If several cases of corruption and embezzlement have acquired the undesirable fame to be on the front page, this situation proves on one hand that liberty of the citizen is respected and, on the other, that the Government has decided to purify the personnel of the administration. However, no one could deny that the misdeeds occurred in our present society are the very vestiges of the colonial time and also that of postwar time.

"Consequently, we all are responsible for the present moral crisis, either by the fact that we are the victims of the aforesaid state of things, or because we haven't fought it hard enough to check it. So, first of all, we should blame ourselves instead of pointing an accusing finger at our surrounding.

"In a democracy", the editorial wound up, "if the citizen enjoys his rights, he should also assume his responsibilities."

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4. Social Activities.

October 23. I welcomed General Chung and his party at the airport as reported in Item 3.

October 24. On this evening I gave a reception in honour of General Chung. The reception was held in the reception hall of the Legation. Many notable guests were present amongst them the Foreign Minister, General Le Van Ty, high-ranking Vietnamese Government officials, all Heads of Diplomatic Missions and their wives; all Military and Naval Attaches. All who were invited attended, Ambassador Reinhardt and General Williams being the ranking guests. It was a colorful reception and all guests were most enthusiastic about meeting General Chung. Included in the invitations were the top press people in Saigon.

October 25. As reported earlier in this report I accompanied General Chung to the Foreign Ministry and accompanied him on his call on President Ngo Dinh Diem. At 10.40 I was in the welcoming diplomatic party at the airport to meet the Vice President of the Philippines and his Defense Minister. At twelve noon I attended a reception given by the British Charge d'Affaires in honor of Group Captain Prichard and the Officers of No. 60 Squadron of the Royal Air Force. At six o'clock I attended a reception given by Ambassador Reinhardt and General and Mrs. Williams in honor of Rear Admiral Wright and the Officers of the USS "Los Angeles". At seven o'clock I attended a reception given by the Ambassador of Royal Thailand and Mrs. Chongchareon in honor of the visiting Thai Admiral and the Officers of his ship. At eight-thirty I attended a dinner given by the Acting Defense Minister in honour of the Philippine Secretary of State for National Defense. At

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nine-thirty I attended a reception given by the Australian Minister and Mrs. McNicol to meet the Captain and Officers of the HMAS "Anzac".

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem.

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin

Choi, Duk Shin
Minister of Korea to Vietnam.

His Excellency
The President of the Republic of Korea
Seoul, Korea.

- Attachments:
1. Newsclipping, General Chung's arrival
 2. Times of Vietnam, "Draft Constitution
 3. Chinese newspaper, "DA-SHA"