

**September 13, 1956**  
**CDS Report No. 18 from Choi Duk Shin to the  
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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**Summary:**

Choi Duk Shin reports on the APACL meeting in Saigon, Vietnamese government strategy for Chinese minorities, and Vietnamese-Japanese reparation negotiations.

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September 13, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL.

CDS REPORT NO. 018

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No. 018 covering the following points:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. APACL Meeting in Saigon
3. VIETNAM Affairs
4. "Korean-Vietnam News Round-Up"  
Weekly Publication of this Legation.
5. Social Activities.

1. Receipt of Instructions.

On Monday, September 10, I received Your Excellency's Instruction No. 15 dated September 7, 1956. I will with careful thought implement these advices accordingly.

2. APACL Meeting in Saigon.

Mr. Chin Hang Kong, Chairman of the APACL of Korea, together with Dr. Glenn and Mr. Kim, arrived on Saturday 8. They were welcomed by the Vietnamese APACL and Government officials. They together with the other delegations commenced the actual work of the meeting immediately after arrival. The conclusion of the discussion will be delayed for two days because the Philippine representative arrived two days late due to the typhoon. I consider that this meeting was successful. They will again have a meeting in November before the opening of the U.N. General Assembly.

They will leave the early part of next week for Korea.

This meeting of the APACL in Saigon has been welcomed by the

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Vietnamese. They say: "putting their entire confidence in the objective of the conference, the Vietnamese people present their respectful regards to the Asian people's anti-Communist League in the solidarity spirit for the common cause, and wish it success."

In the opening session the Secretary of State for Youth and Information, representing the President of the Republic of Vietnam declared:

"Our responsibilities are heavier, because of the appearance of new threats from the Communists in Asia. In Burma, the Chinese Communists went as far as occupying by military forces the regions of Wa and Kachin .....

"We urge the peoples of Asia as well as the Free World to take positive action in order to avert the Communist threats.

"The success or failure of the anti-Communist action depends for a great part on the re-awakening of the Asian peoples themselves to the Communist danger and their positive struggle against Communism .....

The Chairman of APACL of Korea, Mr. Kong, in his speech at the opening session declared:

"We of Korea believe that the time of crisis is upon us. The Communists have not yet won the final victory -- but they are moving ahead everywhere throughout the world. They are working night and day -- and pausing neither for rest nor the niceties of civilization. Country after country is vanishing behind the black curtains of their slave system. People after people are disappearing into the mass of what has become a global concentration camp. I

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need not go into detail, because you all know the list.

"We want to get together with you again -- in extraordinary conference -- to determine mutually what actions we should take and how they can best be taken. After that we want to see that the implementation is carried through. We want to see that Red China is kept out of the United Nations at the forthcoming General Assembly meeting in November, and that Korea and Vietnam become members.

"With this in mind, Korea is submitting to you in memorandum form a call for an interim or extraordinary conference to be held in November, before the opening of the United Nations General Assembly."

Mr. Kong's speech was the shortest and most concise one. The timing to have an extraordinary conference before the opening of the U.N. General Assembly is a very wise one and, therefore, it was unanimously adopted by the meeting. I attach his speech to this report for Your Excellency's information.

### 3. Vietnam Affairs.

#### a. Chinese-Vietnam Relationship.

There has been no significant development of the question of (a) "Citizenship" and (b) "Professions Forbidden to Foreigners". The Chinese Charge d'Affaires this morning flew back to Taipei for report and instructions.

The reaction of the Vietnamese people to Ordinance 53 containing the enumeration of the professions forbidden to nationals of foreign countries was immediate and their praise is very very high toward their government on this particular ordinance.

If one could read all the comments made in the Vietnamese daily newspapers he would get a very clear idea of how the people feel 192

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and how happy they are to have this decisive action which will lead them to the "economic independence" from the old 'colonial' economy. So, I attach Appendix B which gives comments in several Vietnamese newspapers on this particular ordinance (53) for Your Excellency's information.

It seems that the Vietnamese Government will go further in this Chinese matter by ordering the Vietnamese citizens of Chinese origin to use Vietnamese style of names and also restricting them in their method of schools. The Vietnamese Government is going to order that the Chinese schools become completely Vietnamese schools; that they must employ Vietnamese teachers and the pupils must be taught in the Vietnamese language. According to my observations, the Vietnamese Government will do everything possible in the Chinese problem before there is an exchange of diplomatic ministers. As I reported previously, the Chinese Government has a Charge d'Affaires and there is as yet no diplomatic representative from Vietnam to Free China.

In following the trend toward 'economic independence' in Vietnam, I would advise Your Excellency that my personal deduction in this particular matter is that the Vietnamese Government so far is solving the "Chinese" or 'minority' problem very wisely.

b. Vietnam-Japanese Relationship.

There is no indication of any progress having been made in the 'reparation' talk since I last reported to Your Excellency. However, there follows a Vietnam Press news dispatch quoting from a Japanese newspaper:

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"TOKYO (AP) - Sept. 10

"The newspaper Asahi Monday reported Japan's new terms of reparations for World War II damages to South Vietnam call for a payment of 20 million dollars in capital goods, services and loans by Japan.

"The paper did not say about the period of payment, however.

"Preliminary talks have reportedly been under way in Saigon between Vietnamese Foreign Minister Vu Van Mau and Japanese Ambassador Konagaya since late August when the latter returned to his post with a new Japanese plan.

"The paper said the new Japanese proposal calls for:

- "1. Payment of seven or eight million dollars in capital goods and services;
- "2. Japan's economic cooperation by granting Vietnam 12 to 13 million dollars loans."

At a social gathering I had an opportunity to talk with a high-ranking official of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry. He told me the original proposal of the Vietnamese Government was "250 million US dollars". Recently, the government dropped it down to 200 million. I asked him if he had read the news dispatch from Tokyo. He said he did read it and that this is what the Japanese Ambassador is trying to "persuade us" to take. He then asked me if it was possible that the Japanese would raise it to about 100 million dollars. I told him that I would not say it is impossible. However, I did know that the Japs had paid Burma only a little more than 50 million dollars: that they claimed that they had done heavy fighting in Burma, but that they said they had done no fighting in Indochina at all. Therefore, I very much doubted if the Japs would pay more than 50 million dollars to Vietnam. He then asked me if I considered it was of value to receive what the Japanese wanted to give. I answered him that it was up to them to decide this and that I was not in a position to advise them. I did make the statement however that the Japs would gain much more 194

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than they would give them. Using the term technical assistance they will bring a lot of their people here as 'technicians'. Actually, these so-called technicians may be the advance party of traders or merely 'labourers' who are jobless in Japan. The Vietnamese themselves have a sufficient amount of manpower to do the 'labour' work. Furthermore, you have to open the market-doors for the Japanese products come with cheaper price, but a poorer quality. It seems that the man with whom I talked is fully aware of this danger. In fact, I did not have to describe the situation to him so frankly, but I assumed he was sincere when he asked me for my advice, so I told him all I could.

I predict that it will take a comparatively long period for these two countries in which to agree on this 'reparation' issue and I personally hope that the United States, friendly to both countries, will not intervene in this matter in order that the Vietnamese may have a free hand to deal with it. It does not mean that there is any indication. However, it is not impossible.

c. Laotian Premier's Stop-Over Visit in Saigon.

Prince Souvanna Phouma, Premier of the Laotian Royal Government made a stop-over visit in Free Vietnam on his way to Paris, France. He arrived at noon on September 8 and left for Paris early in the morning of the next day. His stay was 18 hours including time for sleeping and dining. The Vietnamese Government received him with the courtesy which it renders to foreign premiers or vice-Presidents, although they were aware it was only a stop-over visit.

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The President gave a dinner in honour of the Prince. The members of the President's Cabinet and all heads of diplomatic missions were invited and were present at the dinner. The President made a short welcome address at the finish of the dinner. It was very brief compared with the usual address given at these dinners. The response from the Prince, however, was rather lengthy. I attach speech of the President and news dispatch of the news conference held with the Prince. His speech at the dinner pretty much covers the information he gave at his press conference. His speech has not appeared in the Vietnam press. He said in the news conference that his country is a neutral nation like Switzerland, but not 'neutralism'. Very few people could understand what he meant.

After dinner, when having liqueurs, I stood for a moment close to him together with several other guests and heard the following conversation:

One Western diplomat very flatteringly said "that the Prince can never be a Communist: Communism can never exist in the Royal family".

It would appear that he (the Western diplomat) is assuring the world that the half brother of the Premier and leader of the Pathos-Laos is not a Communist, just as the West said towards Red Chinese Communists "This is not Communism; they are an Agrarian Reform Party".

4. Korean-Vietnam News Round-Up: the Weekly Publication by this Legation.

The issuance of this Legation's news round-up has been received with much interest by the different presses in Saigon. We receive regularly requests for copies from persons who are not on the circulation list. News items which appear in our

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round-up are published by the leading newspapers and almost immediately after receipt by them of the bulletin. As examples:

1. Although Your Excellency's inaugural speech and relating photographs were received almost two weeks after the occasion of the ceremony, we published it in our Bulletin No. 0011. The next day the speech of Your Excellency appeared in the paper called "La Gazette", newsclipping of which I sent to Your Excellency with my last report.

2. We documented a biography of Madame Rhee in our bulletin and the next evening it appeared in the only French-owned newspaper "Le Journal Extrême-Orient", which I attach with this report.

I am happy to report to Your Excellency that all of the material which we publish in our bulletin is well received and respected by the press in Vietnam and the various information services in Saigon. Many of our items are published in the newspapers soon after they appear in the bulletin. In conversation with persons of note I receive many complimentary remarks about our weekly publication.

5. Social Activities.

September 6. On this day the Secretary of State for Public Works and Communications invited me to attend the ceremony of transfer to the Government of Vietnam of a dredge named 'Rach-Gia', a donation of the American Economic Aid destined to the resettlement of the Plain des Joncs. This dredge is the fourth one offered by USOM to the Government of Vietnam.

September 7. On this day General O'Daniel left Saigon. I was in the official party at the airport. I shall write and convey to him the kind wishes and thoughts of Your Excellency and the people of Korea. 197

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On the same evening I attended a farewell reception in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair, British Information Director in Saigon.

September 8. I welcomed Mr. Chin Hang Kong, Dr. Glenn and Mr. Kim at the airport.

On this same evening the President gave a dinner in honour of the visiting Laotian Premier which I attended.

September 10. In the evening the Foreign Minister gave a reception in honour of the APACL Representatives which I attended.

On the same evening the Minister of Youth and Information invited the APACL people to a dinner and which I also attended.

September 11. On this evening I attended a reception at the Chinese Legation.

September 12. I gave a reception in honour of Mr. Kong. The Foreign Minister, the Minister for Youth and Information, the American and Thailand Ambassadors, and many other distinguished guests were present.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest esteem,

Respectfully,

*Choi Duk Shin*

Choi, Duk Shin  
Minister of Korea to Republic of Vietnam

His Excellency

President of the Republic of Korea.

- Attachments:
1. Speech of Mr. Kong
  2. Appendix B
  3. Speech of President and news clipping
  4. "Le Journal Orient-Extreme" newspaper.

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