

August 16, 1956
**CDS Report No. 14 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin describes the celebrations held in Saigon for Korea's National Day, August 15th as well as a few other recent social activities.

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CDS REPORT NO. 014

Excellency,

It is with great emotion and satisfaction that I submit to Your Excellency my Weekly Report No. 014. At this time I would like to express to Your Excellency our feeling of great happiness that you will continue to lead us in our fight for the long-sought unification of our country.

1. Observance of August 15th.

On the occasion of the Third Term of Your Excellency's inauguration and the celebration of the Eighth Anniversary of the establishment of the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Eleventh Anniversary of our Liberation, I, on behalf of the Legation in Saigon and the Korean residents in Vietnam, wish to express to Your Excellency our loyalty to our Government and to Your Excellency.

At nine o'clock on the morning of August 15th, the members of the Legation, together with our countrymen, women and children, gathered in the hall of the Chancery and solemnly and with great reverence swore to follow the leadership of Your Excellency in the fight for unification of our country and to fight until this unification is achieved.

In my address to our countrymen resident in Saigon I explained mainly to them the present Korea-Japan relationship and the insincerity on the part of the present Japanese Government. I made this explanation because I feel that almost all of our countrymen here have resided in Vietnam since before the end

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of World War II and, consequently, because they have not since returned to Korea, they need to be acquainted with the real truth of the situation.

At the end of the ceremony, we made a toast to the prosperity of our beloved country and for the continued health of Your Excellency.

In the evening of the same day from six until eight o'clock we held our reception. Mrs. Choi and I invited the high officials of the Vietnamese Government and all members of the Diplomatic Corps. Also included were dignitaries of Vietnamese society and Chinese society. The Foreign Minister, Mr. Vu Van Mau, represented the President of the Republic of Vietnam and presented the personal congratulations and admiration of President Diem to Your Excellency.

Among the Diplomatic Corps the Ambassador of Thailand, Mr. Chongchareon, and all the representatives of our friendly nations were present. It was regretted that the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Reinhardt was still absent in The Philippines, having accompanied Mrs. Reinhardt to Clark Field, and also it was the eve of the departure of the French Ambassador, Monsieur Hoppenot.

There were more than three hundred persons present at the reception. I felt at this reception, as I have at other small parties given in my honor, a true and strong feeling of sincerity for Korea and her people and a deep appreciation of our struggle and long fight against Communism and a true understanding of our ultimate goal, unification of Korea.

2. Presentations by the Press in Vietnam of Korea's National Day.

Never in the past have the Vietnamese and Chinese newspapers printed such large items of the observance of the national day of any country as they did for our National Day. }

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After we sent out the invitation cards, many of the representatives of the many newspapers requested us to furnish them with materials and data concerning this occasion. We gave them the biographical sketch of Your Excellency which we copied from the publication of our Office of Public Information and I am proud to report to Your Excellency that the history of Your Excellency appeared on this memorable day in all the large daily newspapers in Saigon in French, Vietnamese and Chinese.

Many newspapers decided to use the whole text of Your Excellency's biography and print it on successive days, and in their editorials praised Your Excellency. This gives proof of the admiration of the people of Southeast Asia, including all natives and overseas Chinese, of Your Excellency above that of other statesmen in the present struggle against Communism.

It gives me pleasure to present to Your Excellency with this report newsclipping albums.

My only regret is that I did not receive the text of the Inaugural Speech of Your Excellency in time to furnish it to the press. However, it appeared in several of the important newspapers today, August 16th.

3. My message to the people of Vietnam through the facilities of the Vietnamese Broadcasting System.

As reported to you in my Weekly Report No. 012, I delivered a message to the people of Vietnam, through the facilities of their broadcasting system, on this memorable day.

In the original text of my speech I had made some very strong words on Japan. Upon reading the text of my speech the Minister of Information and Youth of Vietnam asked me if I could

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change the tone of the words on Japan or modify them.

He further advised me that he thought the Japanese Embassy here in Saigon would make a protest to the Vietnamese Government if the strictly Government censored facilities were utilized by a country to attack another country, in this instance Japan. I immediately told him that I would agree to modify my speech somewhat because it was not my wish to embarrass our friends, the Government of Vietnam. When I drafted my speech I could not restrain myself from mentioning Japan and I felt at the time it would be a good opportunity to let our friends know the real truth of our relationship with Japan.

It is with regret that I must report these changes in my speech to Your Excellency. I attach for the information of Your Excellency the text of the amended speech.

The speech was broadcast at 7.45 p.m. in the Vietnamese language, and again in English at 9.00 p.m. In the 30 minutes they reviewed briefly the biography of Your Excellency in English; my speech in English followed, and they played several Korean folk songs. I believe it is also the first time they have given 30 minutes to a foreign country for its National Day celebration.

4. Social Activities.

a. On Friday, August 10th, the French Minister, Monsieur Jean Filliol, gave a reception in honour of the departing French Ambassador, Monsieur Henri Hoppenot, and his wife, Madame Hoppenot. Until the arrival of the new Ambassador, Monsieur Filliol will be the Charge d'Affaires.

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b. On Saturday, August 11th, the British Minister (and presently Charge d'Affaires) and Mrs. Errington-Smith entertained many friends at the Residence of the British Ambassador with cocktails, buffet and movies.

c. On Monday, August 13th, Mr. Dannaud gave a reception and which I attended.

d. On Tuesday, August 14th, the President of the Republic of Vietnam gave a big dinner in honour of the departing French Ambassador and Madame Hoppenot. All Cabinet members and all high-ranking members of the Diplomatic Corps were present.

At cocktails after dinner, the President talked with me and expressed his sorrow at learning of the suffering and devastation caused by our recent floods in Korea. I thank him for his expressions of sympathy.

With sentiments of highest loyalty and esteem,

Respectfully,



Choi, Duk Shin
Minister of Korea to Vietnam

His Excellency

President of the Republic of Korea.

- Attachments:
1. Newsclipping albums.
 2. Text of amended speech.
 3. Photograph album.