

June 1, 1956
**CDS Report No. 3 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin discusses the possibility of a military alliance with Taiwan and South Vietnam's positive response to establishing diplomatic relations with South Korea.

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CDS Report No. 003

Confidential

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to submit, Your Excellency, my weekly report No. 003 covering the following points:

1. Courtesy Calls.

Immediately following presentation of my credentials, I commenced my official calls on the Members of the Diplomatic Corps calling first on the Dean, who is the British Ambassador. I then called on the Australian Legation; the Apostolic Visitor from the Vatican; the Chinese Legation; the Philippine Legation; Italian Legation and the French Ambassador. I was not able to call on the American Ambassador following my call on the British Ambassador as he had gone to Dalat for a few days. He has returned and I shall see him tomorrow. For the Government Officials, I have so far visited the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Acting Secretary of State for National Defense (President Ngo Dinh Diem himself is the Secretary of State for National Defense) and will continue these calls in the successive weeks.

2. Military Alliance.

As Your Excellency instructed me prior to my departure from Seoul, I stayed in Formosa for a few days for talks with the Chinese high officials. Also, as I mentioned in my last report, I received a copy of your message to Ambassador Kim in Taipei. I am seeking every opportunity to accomplish your instructions. In my talk with the Foreign Minister and the Acting Defense Minister I learned that

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they both are in agreement that such a pact is a necessity, but they naturally must abide by their President's present position in this matter. They will talk further with their President and then advise me the present position. In my personal opinion, the time is not ripe yet for the reasons that one, the Constituent Assembly is still in session and it will not finish its constitutional work before another month, and, secondly, President Diem still adheres to the statement he made in April regarding such a military pact and which I reported to Your Excellency in my confidential report of April 28 from Taipei. Thirdly, the French troops have not yet completed their withdrawal and the completion of this withdrawal will not be until the end of June. Despite the delicate situations here, I will continue to make every endeavour to accomplish this mission.

3. The feeling of the Vietnamese people.

The Vietnamese people have welcomed the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries and I enclose some newspaper clippings and photographs to illustrate to you their warm feeling. In this connection I am happy to advise Your Excellency that the newly appointed Minister of Vietnam will depart soon for his post in Seoul. We have already issued their visas. Last evening I had a dinner in his honour and also invited were the Chiefs of Protocol and Information. At dinner he told me that he had already dispatched a person in advance and he himself will depart for Seoul after he receives word from the advance party. He added that the time of his departure probably would be before the middle of June.

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4. On the occasion of the commemoration of Memorial Day for the war dead of the U.S. Armed Forces, I sent messages to the American Ambassador and General Williams. They read:

"Please accept, Your Excellency, the prayers and warmest thoughts of my President and my people for you and your people on the occasion of the commemoration of your Memorial Day."

and

"May I extend to you, General Williams, and your people the prayers and warmest thoughts of my President and my people on the occasion of the commemoration of your Memorial Day."

Yesterday, I received from General Williams the following letter of appreciation:

"Your message of 30 May sincerely appreciated by me and the Officers and Soldiers of my Command.

At a suitable occasion, will you please convey to your President and Madame Rhee my kindest respects and good wishes for their continued good health and happiness."

With deepest sentiment of loyalty and esteem, I remain,

Respectively,



Choi, Duk Shin
Minister to Republic of Vietnam.

His Excellency
President of Republic of Korea.

Attachments:

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