

June 28, 1956

**Letter No. 3 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to
Minister Duk Shin Choi**

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/121012>

Summary:

President Rhee disagrees with Minister Choi suggestion to issue an invitation to the South Vietnamese President on the basis that Korea is still at war.

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CONFIDENTIAL

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To: Minister Duk Shin Choi

From: The President

I am in receipt of your report No. 006, your communication to the Vietnamese Foreign Minister dated June 16 and the financial report and wish to thank you for them.

So far it has been the Government's policy not to issue any invitations to the inauguration ceremony. We have to make our friends realize that we are still at war and invitations would demand certain preparations for entertainment which we feel would not be appropriate under the present circumstances.

As you know, I do not even give a reception in order to keep expenses at a minimum. You may recall the Foreign Minister is the only person who gives a reception on that day. Moreover, if we invite the president of one government we will have to invite all the heads of state of those countries which have their representatives in Korea.

If you wish, you may say our Government does not issue any invitations during the war time.

Today the Vietnamese Minister presented his credentials and there was a very impressive ceremony at Kyung Mu Bai. I am sure the Foreign Ministry will send you the photographs taken of the ceremony.

Thank you for the newspaper editorial. It would be helpful if you could put the name of the paper and the date.