

**June 21, 1956**

**Letter No. 2 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to  
Minister Duk Shin Choi**

**Citation:**

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/121017>

**Summary:**

President Rhee acknowledges Choi Duk Shin's recent report and urges Choi to be weary of possible Japanese inclusion in regional military alliances.

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Original Scan



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STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

To: Minister Buk Shin Choi

From: The President

I am in receipt of your report No. 005 and confidential letter dated June 15.

I am glad that you have received my letter and noted my instructions with regard to the 2 points as mentioned in your letter under a) and b).

With regard to the military alliance we have to be very careful now as Formosa has proposed one among the Philippines, China, Korea and Vietnam. You have to consider the fact that sooner or later the pressure from America may be such that the majority will vote for the inclusion of Japan; therefore we have to be very careful in this matter.

From the conversation you had with the Secretary for Home Affairs, he clearly stated that Vietnam is still not completely independent militarily, politically or economically and therefore is not ready to make any international commitment.

I think we have to appreciate his frank discussion and respect it. As I told you before, do not press on the points any more. In case someone else approaches you on the matter be evasive and tell him you have no specific instructions or give any explanation which fits into the conversation.

I have noted that you made some courtesy calls and I am glad you are making friends in your new assignment.

cc: Cho

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