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**May 17, 1956**

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

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**Summary:**

Choi Duk Shin reports on the installation of a Korean Legation in Saigon as well as general information about the legation set up and the surrounding area in South Vietnam.

**Credits:**

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CDS-REPORT NO.001  
CONFIDENTIAL

Saigon, May 17 1956

Excellency,

I have the honour to express to Your Excellency my sincere felicitations that You are reelected as President of our great nation. All of the people here are as happy as the Korean people at home to hear that the Republic of Korea, one of the most vigorous anti-Communist nations in the present time, has again elected our greatest leader as the president to lead the free world to stand fast against Communist aggression.

In this report I have the pleasure to cover the following points:

We have the great honour and pleasure to report to You that in accordance with our common desire to establish closer relations between the Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Korea, a Legation of Korea has been installed in Saigon.

I. - The valuable assistance given us by our loyal compatriots who are residents of Saigon has made it possible for us to rent a spacious villa on Caothang Street, suitable for office and residence. The location which is close to  
the Palace...

the Palace of the President and Ministry of Foreign Affairs is very valuable to us because of our close relationship with the Vietnamese Government.

2. - We have already employed some secretaries to assist us in our work. Here, we have to use languages, perhaps more languages than in other places. Besides the Vietnamese and the English languages which are commonly used in Vietnam, French is still necessary because it is the second language of Vietnam. The great number of Chinese people living in Saigon-Cholon and in other cities of South Vietnam requires knowledge of the Chinese language.

3. - Of course, our work here is not limited to our relations with the Vietnamese Government, but it extends to all the representatives of other nations of the free world in the capital of South Vietnam. At the present time, there are in Saigon five embassies, six legations including Korea, and eight consulates.

4. - The strong efforts of the Republic of Vietnam have won our praise and deepest admiration. The anti-Communist attitude of the people has developed because the Vietnamese Government is completely opposed to Communism. Through the Vietnamese Government a strong campaign of denunciation was inaugurated and reached its climax in the elections. The new Constituent Assembly is giving all its efforts to

Preparing ....


preparing a National Constitution for the new Republic of Vietnam, and this work must be given first place. To strengthen the spirit of the people and help them understand that the new Republic is working for their welfare and prosperity and freedom, President Ngo Dinh Diem himself and the fourteen ministers make frequent trips to the distant cities and areas liberated from the Communists very recently.

The President visits the refugee resettlement villages in every section of South Vietnam to encourage these tragic victims of Communism who have sought freedom in South Vietnam.

Because of the necessary absence of the President from Saigon, the presentation of my letter of credentials has been delayed.

With deepest sentiments of loyalty and esteem, I remain

Respectfully,

  
Choi Duk Shin  
Minister to the Republic  
of Vietnam

His Excellency  
President of the Republic of  
Korea

Enclosures: 1. Attachment - List of members of Diplomatic Corps  
2. Attachment - photographs of the Legation