

November 15, 1955

Letter from Choi Duk-shin to the President of the Republic of Vietnam

Citation:

"Letter from Choi Duk-shin to the President of the Republic of Vietnam", November 15, 1955, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-333b-101, The Korean Legation in Vietnam, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports briefly on the current situation of Vietnam and the expectations for the first South Vietnam presidential elections.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

15 November 1955

Excellency:

I consider it a great honor to write to Your Excellency and express my heartiest appreciation for Your Excellency's kindness extended to us during our last visit to Vietnam in the capacity of the ROK Military Goodwill Mission.

At the same time, I wish to express my wholehearted commendation for the pure spirit of independence and the strong will of the Vietnamese people not to succumb to the French despite its hundred-year-long control over them, nor to the Japanese during the last World War II.

If I may, I would like to point out what I found necessary for Vietnam, from my personal observation during the frequent visits to Vietnam. What are needed by Vietnam are: First, deportation of Bao Dai Emperor to establish the new Republic, second, withdrawal of any French intervention, and third, increased military and economic aid from the United States of America.

I believe the leader of Vietnam should be the man who is able to repel out of Vietnam the French colonialism, not to speak of the Communism, and Your Excellency has given us a great encouragement by proving yourself the very leader.

Today, I was very much pleased to read a column in a Korean newspaper dealing with the assumption of Presidency of the new Republic of Vietnam before the end of this month. The column read: According to a private prediction given by some supporters of the Premier Ngo Dinh Diem, the Premier will assume Presidency of Vietnam before the end of this month. A voting by the Vietnamese people to decide whether Bao Dai should be ousted and Premier Ngo elected the First President of the new Republic of Vietnam is expected to be held on coming 23rd October.

I sincerely wish and believe the voting will turn out favorable to Your Excellency and Your Excellency will be the first great President of the new-born Republic. It will really be encouraging to the free world that Your Excellency fully armed with anti-Communism become the President of Vietnam at such a critical moment.

With my best wishes for Your Excellency's continued success, I remain

Respectfully,

Choi Duk-shin
Lt. Gen. ROKA
Commanding, I ROK Corps

His Excellency
The President of the Republic of Vietnam
Saigon, Vietnam

255

Enclosure (2)