

December 22, 1955

Letter from Choi Duk-shin to Dr. Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin submits his "last report" as Corps Commander.

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Excellency:

I have the honor to write to Your Excellency this last report of the year 1955 in the capacity of Corps Commander. And I am very happy to report Your Excellency that constant improvements in the Corps activities have been noted since. Your Excellency assigned me to this Corps seven months ago.

This time, I would like to specially mention about the 8th Division under my command, as it has received an award for attaining outstanding achievements in the troop education which directly influences the morale of the army. Such an excellent result could, I believe, solely be attributed to the untiring efforts and unfailing sincerity of Brigadier General Lee Chi-up (李致業) in command of the Division. For Your Excellency's information, he once served Your Excellency as the Captain of the Security Guard during Your Excellency's residing at the former Seoul Mansion. Having worked twice with me before, this is the third time for him to be with me, and during my recent trip to South Vietnam he took responsibilities for commanding the I ROK Corps as the acting Corps Commander. To my best knowledge, he is a man of ability and sincerity, as has been proved by his past career. I now would like to recommend, with Your Excellency's kind permission, that, in view of the fact that he was senior to many officers who are now senior to him and considering the grave responsibility, as a Commander of more than fourteen thousand strength, for the logistical support, morale maintenance, and improvement of his division, he be promoted as soon as possible to Major General which is the proper rank for a Division Commander.

The Corps Commanders' Conference was held on the 12th December with, this time, General White, CG, AFPE/8A, presiding.

There I was once again greatly pleased to have 9th Division under

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my command mentioned and highly praised ahead of any other unit, both under the Eighth Army and the ROK Army, for gaining the top rating "Superior" in the Training Inspection and Logistics Inspection conducted by the 8th Army Headquarters. I believe that Brigadier General Kang Tae-min (姜泰敏) whom I mentioned in my previous letter to Your Excellency and the officers and men under his command are to be given the credit for the excellent result.

It was also highly encouraging to see the I ROK Corps given two "Superior" and two "Excellent" ratings in the Korean Army's year-end over-all inspection, exceeding the other Corps. The former rating is the first grade and the latter the second grade representing the results of any inspection in the Army.

Three divisions under my command-the 8th, 20th, and 28th-have just gone through the 26 week training program with considerably excellent results although some deficiencies have been noted which should be corrected in the future training. Shortly, we will be on a new training cycle for which detailed plannings are under way at the present time.

I wish to happily conclude this letter by saying that I have tried to follow the pattern of Your Excellency's unflinching and unexcelled patriotism toward our country in performing such a grave responsibility and, to my great pleasure, I have successfully completed my seven months' duty with this Corps, with the sincerity and steadfast efforts of the military personnel under my command.

At this moment, I wish to clarify the reasons for my frequent recommendations to Your Excellency on personnel affairs. These recommendations are solely intended to meet with Your Excellency's desire to pick up able men who could devote themselves to improvement and prosperity of our country, and I myself feel

it necessary for me in compliance with Your Excellency's desire to highly praise and recommend the hidden persons who have proved themselves able and patriotic.

For Your Excellency's information, I am inclosing a list of the personnel who have made commendable devotion to improvement of the Corps activities.

I wish Your Excellency a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and Long Live Your Excellency, for we, the people of Korea, have many things yet pending solution which without Your Excellency's inspiring leadership can never be accomplished.

With my deep sentiments of loyalty and esteem, I remain

Respectfully,



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

His Excellency
Dr. Syngman Rhee
The President of the Republic of Korea
Seoul, Korea