

November 22, 1957
**CDS Report No. 64 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on Japanese Prime Minister Kishi's visit, the sharing of Korean culture in Saigon, and major events in South Vietnam and the surrounding region.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT NO. 064

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit this Weekly Report No. 064 which is covering the following subjects:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. Japanese Prime Minister Kishi Visits Vietnam
3. Korean Movie Showing Held
4. Major Events in Vietnam and the Neighboring Countries
5. Social Activities.

1. Receipt of Instructions

In the last week's pouch, I have received no instruction from Your Excellency, but several informational data from Your Excellency's office. I am most appreciative for Your Excellency's kindness and generosity in continuing to send these materials to me.

Of three copies of the informational data which Your Excellency's office sent to me, I have delivered one to the Press Officer of the Presidency and the other to the Office of the Vice Presidency. At the same time, some of them were reproduced by Weekly Bulletin of this Legation for the purpose of wider publicity.

2. Japanese Prime Minister Kishi Visits Vietnam
Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi arrived

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in this capital of Vietnam on November 19 as the first leg of his second trip to Southeast Asian countries and departed for Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia on November 21.

The Japan's Premier was greeted by the Foreign Minister and Home Minister at the airport.

During his two-day stay in Saigon, he met with the President, the Vice-President and the Foreign Minister, and visited a refugee village near the capital. Kishi was entertained by the President and the Foreign Minister of Vietnam, and the Japanese Charge d'Affaires reciprocated to the invitation of Vietnam side.

In my observation, there was no enthusiastic sign of welcome to the Japanese Prime Minister on the part of Vietnamese people, particularly the mass has reflected to the visit with suspicion and doubt for Japan's cruelty during World War II.

Furthermore, in my judgement, Kishi did not bring about any concrete solution of pending problems between Japan and Vietnam during his visit.

Premier Kishi said in a statement delivered at the airport before departure that "there is still unsettled the reparations question between the two countries." He went on to say that after the settlement of reparations issue they will be able to work "more effectively for the consolation of free countries' cooperation and economic development of Asia."

On the other hands, in a joint communique, President Ngo and Prime Minister Kishi said that they

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consider that "a quick and definite settlement of this problem (reparations issue) will contribute to cementing the friendly relationship between Japan and Vietnam."

Kishi further referred to the reparations problem at a press conference by saying that "I have discussed the war reparations question with different Government leaders from various points of views and we have agreed it be given an early settlement."

Kishi also pointed out that the settlement of war reparations issue should "enable a quick increase of economic relations between the two countries."

Judging from all his statements made during his stay in Saigon, Kishi is becoming to convince that reparations issue must be settled down first of all, as it was strongly advocated by the Vice-President of this country, and next, some discussion on trade expansion between the two countries be possible.

Kishi seems to be nearer to the insistence of the Vietnamese Vice-President, concurrently the Minister of Economic Affairs, saying "Reparations first, trade next." Judging from the above mentioned details, there is almost no possibility that Kishi has brought up the subject on his proposed Asian Development Fund during the meetings with Vietnamese leaders.

I attach all the data available at the moment concerning Kishi's visit to Vietnam to this Report for Your Excellency's reference.

I wish to mention about the action of the

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Vice President of Vietnam. Upon arrival of Kishi at Saigon airport he was not at sight. As the second man of this country and as the former Ambassador to Japan, the Vice-President was naturally expected to be at the airport to welcome Prime Minister Kishi, but he was not there without any disclosed reason. However, to my great surprise, the Vice President was at the airport on November 21 to welcome the Prince of Iraq, just the same morning that Kishi left for Cambodia.

I wish to add few more on Kishi's trip to this country to this Report.

First, President Ngo Dinh Diem was said to have invitation from Japanese Prime Minister Kishi to visit Japan, but the President politely rejected it by saying that it be impossible within this year and that the matter be considered next year. In this regard, Kishi was asked by pressmen during an interview in Saigon. But it seemed that he was not prepared to reply to the question, reluctantly saying that it was connected with international courtesy and that he could not answer more in detail at the moment.

I think the visit of President Ngo to Japan will not be materialized before the settlement of reparations question.

Second, Kishi declared that the reparations issue will be discussed continuously by Special Envoy Uemura who is expected to be in Vietnam next month.

Third, Kishi has attempted to have favour and support from Chinese residents in this part of the world

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on his proposal of Asian Development Fund by saying that Japan did not recognize Red China. There are some Chinese in this area who have such wishful thoughts that Japan will not enjoy trade expansion toward Red China only if she be permitted to be in the vacuum in Southeast Asia. Kishi said that there will be no friction in the relations between Free China and Japan because of trade with Red China since Japan's trade with the Reds is underway only in the limit of international restriction and agreement.

Fourth, as for the attention of Your Excellency on President Ngo's remarks on invitation of Japanese technicians, I have carefully studied all the speeches by the President of Vietnam before the Colombo Plan Conference. However, there was no mentioning on invitation of Japanese technicians to this country in his formal address. However, it was connected with the press report of Nippon Times which has related to interview exclusively by the Japanese journalists with President Ngo on October 25. I have received a copy of news excerpts from Your Excellency's office, and contacted with the Vietnam Press and the Press Officer of the Presidency.

The official organ "the Vietnam Press" has not published the said interview and alleged that it has no knowledge of the said story. But the Presidential Press Officer made it clear that the Japanese press misquoted some portion of what the President actually said. The Japanese press reported that "President Ngo said he wished to see Japan permit the countries of Asia to 'utilize' its advanced

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technology." According to the Press Officer, the President said that "he wished to see Japan make available its technical knowledge to other Asian countries." The President's remarks were mere reply to the inquiry of Japanese pressmen, apparently putting no emphasis on the importance in this regard.

It is so apparent that the Japanese press once again has employed its typical sneaking technique to utilize all the things to fit for Japan's aims.

3. Korean Movie Showing Held

The Legation has held a two-day movie showing at the United States Information Service Theater on November 20 and 22. In the first day, high ranking Governmental officials of Vietnam were invited to the movie entitled "Korean Perspective," "Korea welcomes President Ngo Dinh Diem" and "News from Korea." On November 22, all the members of diplomatic corps and foreign press correspondents in Saigon were invited.

Despite the fact that there was reception at the Japanese Embassy in honour of Japanese Prime Minister Kishi, many Government officials including the Ministers of Information and Youth, Education, Justice, and Reconstruction, and two Vice-Speakers of the National Assembly, the Governor of the National Bank, were present at the event.

On November 22, the Thai Ambassador, dean of diplomatic corps in Vietnam, the British Ambassador and

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other foreign dignitaries and foreign correspondents were attended at the movie showing.

As some films are 35mm, I could not show it at my Chancery, and with the cooperation of USIS the events were highly praised by all the men attended. There are only 60 seats in the USIS Theater so that the invitation was made twice for them.

I am now planning to show the films to the people of Vietnam for wider publicity on Korea.

4. Major Events in Vietnam and the Neighboring Countries.

a. Iraqi Prince Visits Vietnam

Iraqi Prince Abdul Ilah arrived in Saigon on November 21 aboard an Iraqi Airways special plane from Hongkong for a three-day visit to Vietnam.

He was greeted on his arrival at the airport by Vice-President Nguyen Ngoc Tho, the Foreign Minister and other dignitaries. All the Asian diplomats and American and British Ambassadors were at the airport to greet him. I was also at the airport to welcome him.

The Iraqi Prince paid courtesy call on the President of Vietnam. Meanwhile, the President has entertained him at a reception at the Presidential Palace. Mrs. Choi and I have been at the reception.

At the same evening the President gave a stag dinner in honour of the Prince, and I attended the party.

He has visited Japan and Free China before coming to Saigon and is going to India. One of the Prince's

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party members expressed regret that the Prince has not enough time to visit our country during his Far Eastern trip.

b. Small-scale Cabinet Reshuffle in Vietnam.

Mr. Nguyen Duong Don, former Education Minister was appointed the Minister to Italy and Spain, and National Assembly Deputy Tran Huu The was appointed the Education Minister.

Meanwhile, Mr. Le Van An, comptroller general of the Finance Ministry was named as Ambassador to Thailand, and National Assembly deputy Pham Khac Hy, chairman of Foreign Affairs and Information Committee, was named as Ambassador to France.

c. New Laotian Cabinet Formed

On November 20, Prime Minister Prince Souvanna Phouma presented his newly reorganized Cabinet to the Crown Prince Savang Vatthana and sworn loyalty to the King, the Constitution and the Nation. The new Cabinet is made up of 16 members including all-except-two holdover ministers from the outgoing Souvanna Phouma's government.

We recall that the old Phouma's Cabinet made its mass resignation late last May for the same long-pending controversy with Pathet-Lao (Red Laos) and it brought about the longest post-war Cabinet crisis in Laos.

This new Cabinet includes two Pathet Lao top chieftains: Prince Souphanourong (the leader of Red Laos) assumes the Ministry of Planning, Reconstruction and Urbanisation, and Mr. Vongvichit, Chief of the Pathet Lao panel in the peace talks with the Royal Government will handle the Ministry of Culture, Religion and Fine Arts.

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The strong anti-Communist leader, Mr. Katay Don Sasorith, once Premier designate but failed to form a Cabinet, holds the Ministry of Interior and State Insurance Affairs. However, according to press reports from Laos, he will be leaving Vientiane very soon for Bangkok to undergo there a treatment for blood vessel rupture.

The Pathet-Lao has decided to turn over the two Northern provinces of Phong-Saly and Sam-Neua, and also to submit the command of the Pathet Lao 7,000-man army to the Royal Government as the price to get into another important stage of "struggle in palace".

It is worthwhile to note that the Communists in Southeast Asian countries have changed recently their tactics. They may well feel that their infiltration in the past has gained enough strenght to handle the situation under the guise of "peaceful coexistence". The same thing happened in Malaya, and perhaps in Burma too, where the Communist terrorists are envisaging to talk "surrendering terms" with the Government.

d. Cambodia's Government Resigns

Premier Sim War has submitted the resignation of his Cabinet to the King. The Governmental communique said that the present Premier's hold-over Government has ended its term and added that the Royal Government earnestly wishes the formation of a new Cabinet headed by Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

e. The Netherlands has established diplomatic relations with Laos and Cambodia.

It is reported that the Netherlands and Laos

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will exchange diplomatic representatives . The Netherlands Ambassador to Thailand will be accredited to Laos as the Netherlands Envoy.

Meanwhile, it is also learned that the Netherlands will accredit her present envoy to Thailand to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

f. Unrest in Malaya

Reports from Malaya told that following the recent riots by the Chinese students, the Malayan Government has ordered the closure of eight schools.

Following the decision of the Malayan Government to expel over-aged students from Chinese schools, demonstrations have taken place by the Chinese students who rode bicycles through the main roads, shouting slogans and blocking up the traffic. The Malayan Government's "Riot Squad" had to use canes and tear-gas to disperse the rioters.

5. Social Activities

a. On November 16, Saturday, three-star General Nguyen Ngoc Le, Chairman of the Vietnamese Veterans Association invited our Delegation of Disabled Veterans to luncheon to which I and the Military Attache also attended.

Their mutual cooperation was very close, and I have stressed on this point when proposing my toast at the luncheon, representing our side.

b. In the same evening, I invited both the Vietnamese and our Veterans delegation to a dinner.

c. On November 20, Wednesday, I invited the Vietnamese high ranking officials to a Korean film-show

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at the United States Information Service Theater.

d. On November 21, Thursday, at noon, I went to airport to greet Iraqi Prince Abdul Ilah, who was visiting Vietnam

e. In the same evening, Mrs. Choi and I attended the reception given by the President honoring Iraq's Prince Abdul Ilah. I also attended the stag dinner given by President Ngo in honour of the visiting Iraqi delegation.

f. In the same evening, Mr. P.S. Son and Mr. Iel Hong, Secretaries of the Legation, attended a reception given by Mr. Clerk, UNESCO Representative and Chief of the Technical Aid Mission.

g. On November 22, Friday, I gave a second show of Korean films at the U.S.I.S. Theater, to which the diplomatic corps in Vietnam and press correspondents were invited.

In closing this Report, I wish to mention some particular development in the United Nations. I have carefully read the newspapers and learned that there are remarkable increase of nations favouring our stands at the U.N.

Our delegation headed by Ambassador Yang has done so great achievement in reaffirming the U.N. position in Korea through its strenuous efforts at the world organization.

Of those countries which I visited last spring, Thailand, Laos, Malaya and Pakistan have positively supported our position at the U.N. Special Political Committee recently,



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though Cambodia, Ceylon, Burma and Indonesia casted abstention at the vote. I feel some responsibility in not obtaining their supports.

Meanwhile, the Philippines Minister to Vietnam, Mr. Mariano Ezpeleta, told me that he had reported to his Government urging support in favour of our country after the meeting with me. He said that some parts of the address delivered by Philippines Chief Delegate to U.N., Ambassador Romulo, at the U.N. was exactly what he made in the report to his Government.

On the surprising attitude of a Ceylonese delegate at the U.N., I have sent the letters to whom I had met during my visit to that country last April, and the copy was attached to this report for Your Excellency's reference.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty
and highest esteem,

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin

Choi Duk Shin

Minister to Vietnam

His Excellency
The President

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- Attachments:**
1. Informational data on Japanese Prime Minister Kishi's trip to Vietnam.
 2. Copy of letters sent to leaders of Ceylon.

Copy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.