

November 6, 1957
**Letter No. 97 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to
Minister Duk Shin Choi**

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Summary:

President Rhee briefly discusses the Colombo Plan negotiations and expresses concern about President Diem's recent statement on Japan.

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No. 97

To: Minister Duk Shin Choi
Saigon

From: The President

I am in receipt of your Weekly Report Number 061 dated November 1 and enclosures for which I thank you.

I am very pleased to read the proceedings of the celebrations on Vietnamese National Day.

I sympathise with you when you said the Japanese had sent the largest delegation to the Colombo Plan Conference. No doubt Japan and India will oppose Korea's admittance. I have written to Ambassador Yang that he has to work hard for next year's meeting, and we on our part must do what we can to win over some of the Asiatic nations. I wish you would quietly have a talk with representatives of friendly nations.

It was rather interesting to read that the Japanese vice premier and the American chief delegate did not attend the state dinner. I wonder if you were able to find out the reason for their absence.

It was most gracious of the Vietnamese Foreign Minister to talk so frankly with you and give you all the information. When you see the Philippines and Thailand representatives please express to them our appreciation for their support in regard to our membership.

What happened at the Cultural Exhibition is most tragic. When we heard it over the radio we wondered if the incident was not Communist-inspired and were deeply concerned. You know it is so easy to create confusion. I am glad that you immediately expressed your condolence to the families of those who lost their lives.

So far nothing was mentioned on the radio about President Ngo's visit to India. We were rather surprised and disappointed at the statement which he delivered before



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the Colombo Plan meeting saying that he is in favor of Japanese technicians, etc. Even if he feels that Vietnam needs these technicians he should not have gone on file with such a statement. Please do not mention this to the Vietnamese officials as they will feel *bad* about it. I am only letting you ~~know~~ our reaction is to his speech.

I am pleased you were able to meet Assistant Secretaries Sprague and Bryant at a dinner given in their honor by the Acting Defense Minister. We are looking forward to having them with us on Saturday for dinner too.