

October 30, 1957

**Letter No. 95 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to
Minister Duk Shin Choi**

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Summary:

President Rhee expresses concern over the recent bombing of the U.S.I.S. center in Saigon and discusses possible ways to share Korean culture in South Vietnam.

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No. 95

To: Minister Duk Shin Choi
Saigon

From: The President

I am in receipt of your Weekly Report Number 059 dated October 18 for which I thank you.

We were deeply shocked to hear on the radio of the bomb explosion at the U.S.I.S. center in Saigon which injured a number of persons and also of the stampede at the fair during the national holiday festivities. All this is communist-inspired and we could not help being concerned for President Ngo and his loyal people. I know that you will have called on the Foreign Minister and expressed our concern and deep regret over the incidents.

With regard to the cultural exhibition, I do not know why the Foreign Ministry had turned down your request but I would advise you quietly that since the recent incidents there anything might happen to our art treasures and as they are irreplaceable I think it was rather wise of the Ministry to have refused to participate at the exhibition.

You should certainly devote your time and efforts to introduce our culture to the Vietnamese people. I will do all I can to see that the Foreign Ministry sends you whatever material you will need. I wish you would think over a program and let me know what is the best thing to do.

I am glad that you explained the Jap situation to President Ngo. I hope you did not take up much of his time in explaining it too carefully. I know he fully shares our view but I do not think he is aware of the impact of Jap propaganda in his country.

It was quoted in one of the newspapers that Thailand will consider the Southeast Asian Development Fund put up by the United States. The Jap foreign minister was recently in Washington and this seems to be the result of his conversations with State Department officials. It amuses me to learn that President Ngo talked only philosophy with Kishi.

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You must not forget that the Kishi party did the real talking with the businessmen.

Very little is reported in the papers about the Colombo Plan meeting and I am looking forward to your report on how the Korean question stands. I am sure India's influence will be felt and it is quite likely Korea will be turned down.

In one of your reports you mentioned that the Ceylonese were rather friendly to you and we were very much astonished at the harsh statement made against us by the Ceylonese delegate at the U.N. I am sending you an excerpt of a letter which I received from Minister Pyo Wook Han in this regard. In case you have a chance to write to some of the people in Ceylon I wish you would tell them that we are deeply shocked and hurt at their delegate's unfriendly attitude.

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