

**October 18, 1957**

**Letter No. 94 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to  
Minister Duk Shin Choi**

**Citation:**

"Letter No. 94 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to Minister Duk Shin Choi", October 18, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-334-059, 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.  
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/121057>

**Summary:**

President Rhee briefly discusses South Korea's possible admittance into the Colombo Plan and South Korea-Vietnam trade relations.

**Credits:**

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

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

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No. 94

TO: Minister Duk Shin Choi

FROM: The President

I am in receipt of your Weekly Report Number 058 dated October 10 and enclosures for which I thank you.

It was very good of President Ngo to grant you an audience and to take up so much of his valuable time to express the impression he had received of Korea during his recent visit here. I read your report with much interest.

The report on the Vice President's meeting with the Japanese ambassador on the question of reparations shows the latter's arrogant behavior toward the Asian people. The Japanese are still sitting on their high horses and think they can get back to the position they held before. I heard on the radio that the Japanese ambassador to Vietnam returned to Japan and what you reported may have been the reason for his recall.

After receiving your cable that the Vietnamese foreign minister told you that the British ambassador had advised the Vietnam government not to invite Korea to the Colombo Plan Conference, we immediately cabled Ambassador Yang who is at present in New York. (See enclosed copy.)

Last Friday, the Foreign Minister met with Amb. Evans and talked about the Colombo Plan. The gist of the conversation is as follows:

Amb. Evans told Dr. Cho that he has been and is still supporting Korea's position on the Colombo Plan to join or be invited as observer to the forthcoming conference to be held in Saigon.

As for membership to the Plan, the Ambassador said the vote should be unanimous. So far he had understood his country was supporting Korea in her efforts to join the Plan but he said his government cannot influence Commonwealth nations on this matter.

He promised that he would cable his home government once more to get a definite answer regarding the above.

211



- 2 -

I am very glad that you sent a letter to the ~~prime~~ *prime minister* minister of Ceylon. It may be late for him to take any action but I am glad you did it.

The possibility of trade between our country and Vietnam is a question which I shall leave with the Commerce Minister but the exportation of rice to our country is unwarranted because we received much surplus grain from the United States. We need to import other grain besides rice and our people should eat more of them.

Unless we know what the Vietnamese will buy and what there is to be bought I do not think we should spend so much money to send out a trade mission. I will advise the Minister to give you information on all the goods which could be sold there and you could find out from the government officials or the chamber of commerce if these are the articles the Vietnamese business people would buy.

With regard to the sending of a special envoy to the ceremony on Vietnamese National Day, it is logical that you will be designated as you are my representative anyway. I cannot understand why you should make such an inquiry but if you need a cable to that effect I will send one appointing you as our special representative.

I have read with much interest the report of your social activities and I am glad that you are keeping in touch with everybody.

245