



July 18, 1957
**Letter No. 77 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to
Minister Duk Shin Choi**

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Summary:

President Rhee briefly replies to Choi's previous report, commenting on Choi's discussion with foreign ambassadors.

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No. 77

To : Minister Duk Shin Choi
Saigon

From: The President

Thank you for your report Number 047 and for a copy of your letter to the Foreign Minister #008 both dated July 11th.

I am very glad that you had a good talk with the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Tran Van Lam. It is important to explain to the government officials and influential people the danger of Japan's determination to again dominate Asia economically. I do hope Vietnam will not fall into Japan's game and accept aid and assistance from the so-called Asian Fund.

I fully understand your inability to get the Vietnamese point of view of the anti-American riot in Formosa. I think the fact that they have kept it out of their newspapers and from the public shows the same danger more or less exists in Vietnam.

I also read with interest your conversation with the New Zealand Commissioner, Mr. Foss Sanahan. I want you to remember to stress in your talks not only the Communist threat, which the whole world is more or less aware of but, also the danger of Japanese expansion particularly as the United States State Department seems to support it.

From your report I note that this man fully realizes the intentions of the Japanese and I am glad you told him about the fishery line. I knew of the dispute between Great Britain and Iceland which occurred about the same time we declared our peace line. Our Legation in London sent to us all the literature pertaining to this case but I did not know that the World Court would settle the dispute in favor of Iceland. If our question were to come up at the World Court, in spite of the necessity of our people to have the fishery line preserved, we would not win out as America is also fighting for some line in the Mexican Gulf



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where they had been fishing for shrimps for many years and only recently were kept out. The South American countries had a conference where they decided on their fishery reserve and they have so far been able to maintain it.

Only yesterday Secretary Dulles made a statement of which I am enclosing a copy, which shows the tendency of the Japanese and Americans to bring up the issue at The Hague.

The reaction of the British ambassador to your trips rather amazes me. You should not forget that his country is one of the top colonial powers and he also knows that we are strongly against colonialism in Asia. His favorable statement about Red China is only to justify Britain's recognition, and later action, of commercial trade with Red China.

I am also glad you explained the same Japanese situation to the French Ambassador. I think you have done a splendid job.

I have also received the picture album, photos and news clippings and a copy of the Secret Report.

With regard to the invitation by Vietnam that ROK participate as an observer at the forthcoming Colombo Plan Conference, I have to take up this matter with some of the Ministers and will cable you if you should approach the government of Vietnam or not.