

August 2, 1956
**CDS Report No. 12 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on the general anti-communist situation in Vietnam, his planned radio broadcast in Vietnam, and recent social activities including a meeting with the Vietnamese Red Cross to discuss flood relief for South Korea.

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Thursday, August 2, 1956

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CDS REPORT NO. 012

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No. 012 covering the following points:

- 1) Receipt of Instructions
- 2) General Situation of Vietnam
- 3) Use of Facilities of Radio-Broadcasting System of Vietnam on 15th August
- 4) Social Activities

1. RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS.

(a) I am in receipt of Your Excellency's Instructions No. 6 dated July 25th, together with a copy of UP report, and No. 7 dated 26 July acknowledging receipt of my Reports Nos. 009 and 010 respectively.

I thank Your Excellency for the copy of the UP dispatch. It was of assistance to me to trace and further clarify the falsity of the dispatch supposedly to have been issued by the UP in Saigon date-lined July 21.

I again had a talk today with Mr. Kaff, the UP correspondent, and gave a copy to him. He was greatly surprised and again strongly denied that he had made such a dispatch. However, Mr. Kaff, because he feels that not only the prestige of the friendly countries involved in this allegedly false dispatch will be hurt, but that the prestige of the UP will be seriously harmed and also he as the correspondent of the UP in Saigon. Mr. Kaff because he himself is embarrassed he hopes he can clarify this with the Chief of his Bureau in Tokyo. He felt he had a lead as to the source from which this information could have emanated.

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I very much regret this whole matter which has caused Your Excellency such grave concern.

I wish to again assure Your Excellency that since the receipt of your instruction dated June 6, 1956 I have not since mentioned the "Triple Alliance". When any correspondent has asked me about it, my reply has been "no comment". I again assure Your Excellency that I am always ready to comply with the instructions of Your Excellency and will heed them accordingly.

(b) I am in receipt of an instruction paper from the Acting Foreign Minister in which he states: "the recent storm and flood in Korea caused tremendous damage, the Legation in Saigon should make efforts to collect contributions to aid the people who are suffering" In this connection I have seen the President of the Red Cross and report of my conversation with him is included in Item No. 4.

(c) I thank Your Excellency very much for your kind consideration concerning the promotion of my Second Secretary, Mr. Son.

2. GENERAL SITUATION OF VIETNAM.

The proposed "election" month has passed without any incidents or trouble from the Communists or 'Neutral' side. On the contrary, the Anti-Communist campaigns of the Vietnamese people and the government have reached their highest peak in the last year. In the last ten days they celebrated the "First Anniversary" of Anti-Communist campaigns in all provinces and towns and at all governmental levels, even including the R.O.V.A.F. (Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces) and I quote their participation as follows:

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"The R.O.V.A.F. has recently celebrated the first anniversary of the Anti-Communist campaign. This ceremony was placed under the Charimanship of the Major General, Chief of the General Staff.

"After the usual ceremonial procedure, Major General Le-Van-Ty took the floor to express his satisfaction for the results attained during the one year of anti-Communist struggle and wound up his speech by inviting his collaborators to re-double their efforts in order to more efficiently contribute to the great work of salvation and reconstruction of their country.

"At the end of the ceremony an officer read a resolution voted by the officers, NCOs and soldiers in a service at the General Headquarters, to the address of President Ngo Dinh Diem and the National Assembly."

To show how firm and steadfast they are in their fight against Communism - as we are under the leadership of Your Excellency - I quote below as an example, some of their resolutions:

1. We acclaim the firm determination of the entire people's struggle against the Communists as well as the brilliant successes scored by the Communist subversive activities denunciation campaigns;
2. We acclaim our North-Vietnamese compatriots who refused to live under Communist regime and now live freely in the South;
3. We express our feelings of solidarity and our enthusiastic support to the people of the world, especially to the Poznan workers and farmers who have been rioting against the Communists' dictatorship;

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4. We strongly protest against the totalitarian and inhuman acts such as repressions, detentions, assassinations of the Communists;
5. We are firmly determined to bury the Geneva Accords, - the sale certificate of our country perpetrated by the Viet-Cong;
6. We reaffirm our absolute devotion toward the President of the Republic and our entire confidence toward the Constituent Assembly and the Steering Assembly of the Communists Subversive Activities Denunciation Campaigns in their reconstruction work of the country;
7. We will strictly and concretely put into effect every action plan of the Anti-Communist Campaign so as to win over these Communists;
8. We promise to unite and coordinate our efforts along with those of every walk of the population in order to edify and protect the republican regime in Vietnam.

Apparently, this campaign started in July of last year after the Geneva Agreement went into effect for one full year. It is my sincere hope that all the population of Vietnam, and even those who are still under the Viet-Cong control, will be won over to the free side in the not too far distant future.

The Viet-Cong Communists had a big ammunition of propaganda and psychological warfare and that was the Anti-colonialism and Anti-White rule. But this ammunition of the Viet-Cong Communists has been a boomerang as Free Vietnam under President Diem immediately started a careful and vigorous campaign plan to fight this propaganda and psychological warfare. They blamed the Viet-Cong Communists for inviting the foreign powers to intervene in the internal affairs of Vietnam and the people of Free Vietnam protested against the responsi-

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bility assumed by the Viet-Cong Communists which caused the partition of the country into two parts. I personally feel the result of this active campaign is that the momentum of the propaganda is gaining in Free Vietnam and that the Viet-Cong Communists are on the decline.

I hope that a well-prepared meeting in September of this year and the Third General Conference of APACL in January of 1957 in Saigon will help the people of Free Vietnam physically and morally in their determination to win out against the Communists.

As Your Excellency has pointed out so strongly in the past that only through boldness in fighting for our just rights is the only path to final world peace.

A few days ago the Western Powers were surprised by the Egyptian President's decision of action on the Suez Canal. Yesterday, we again read the big news of entrance across the border into Northern Burma by a small land force of Red China, and although we do not know the details of what is happening in Burma, still this in itself should give the Neutral Nations and the Western Powers a good lesson of how cleverly the Communists move in and take what they want.

The firmness of Free Vietnam caused Red China, together with Viet-Cong Communists, to abandon the insistence of the "July election". However, the appeasement and weakness shown by the Neutrality of Burma caused the recent supposedly open military invasion of Red China into Burma.

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3. USE OF FACILITIES OF RADIO-BROADCASTING
SYSTEM OF VIETNAM ON 15th AUGUST.

The Ministry of Information and Youth offered to this Legation thirty (30) minutes of time for English broadcasting on Voice of Vietnam, Subject: Special emissions on the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the Republic of Korea, on August 15th. They will then re-broadcast the text of my speech in Vietnamese. I am preparing the text of my speech.

4. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

a) U.S. Admiral A.W. Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived here at 12 noon on July 26 and left Saigon at 11 o'clock on July 27. There is nothing of significance to report concerning his visit to Saigon. I was a member of the official welcoming party at the airport.

b) On last Saturday I visited the Mayor of the 20-million populated Saigon City. Yesterday at four o'clock the Mayor of Saigon made a return call on me at the Legation.

c) On the same day I also visited Secretary of State for Labor, Mr. Huynh Huu Nghia. The Minister of Labor is the only high Vietnamese official who spoke Vietnamese instead of French during my official courtesy call. We had two interpreters between us. He explained to me that his job requires him to speak Vietnamese and not French. It seems that all officials in the Labor Department are required to speak in their own language and not like the other Departments using French very frequently.

d) Today at nine o'clock I called on the President of the Red Cross of Vietnam, Dr. Ho Van Nhut.

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Upon arrival at the Headquarters of the Vietnam Red Cross, Dr. Nhut, his staff and nurses, together with the members of the Junior Red Cross, lined up in front of the building to welcome me.

In his welcoming speech, Dr. Nhut said: "The similarities existing in our two countries are unnecessary to mention. However, the sufferings of the Korean people during the past years has had our grave attention. It was through a news dispatch that we learned of the flood disaster which had come to your people. We discussed how we could help you through our Red Cross organization, and yesterday we sent \$1,000 US to your Red Cross in Seoul. The amount was really too small to send. However, it is an expression of our sincere sympathy in this hour of your disaster....."

In my reply I said "..... It is with sincere gratefulness that I thank you for your gift to our people which you so voluntarily sent to our Red Cross in Seoul. I read in the newspaper that your great President, Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem, had also himself given to the Korean Government a large sum of money to assist in relieving the sufferings of the people caused by this flood. We deeply appreciate the generosity of your organization and that of His Excellency. Again may I express to you our sincere gratitude."

I then gave to the President, Dr. Nhut, the prepared information sheet covering the flood disaster for their information. The visit was one of most cordial atmosphere.

With sentiments of highest loyalty and esteem,

Respectfully,
Choi Duk Shin
Choi, Duk Shin
Minister of Korea to Vietnam

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His Excellency
President of the Republic of Korea.