Wilson Center | Digital Archive
International History Declassified
digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org

August 3, 1956
Letter No. 8 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to Minister Duk Shin Choi

Citation:

"Letter No. 8 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to Minister Duk Shin Choi", August 3, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-333b-025, 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://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/121000

Summary:

President Rhee briefly explains the possibility of South Korea-Italian relations and continues to warn Choi of Japanese involvement in Vietnam.

Credits:

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

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

Wilson Center Digital Archive
李承晚研究院
The Syngman Rhee Institute
Original Scan

3 August 1956

No 8

To Minister Duk Shin Choi

From the President

I am in receipt of your correspondence dated 25 and 26 July, for which I thank you.

I read a copy of your letter addressed to the Italian Minister in Saigon quoting certain answers I made at a recent press conference. These were put forward by some Italian citizens in Korea who naturally would like to have diplomatic relations established, but we on our side have no desire for an exchange at present, particularly as no funds for such diplomatic representation have been appropriated this year for this purpose. If you wished to bring this to the attention of the Italian Minister in Saigon you could have sent him the newspaper clipping where the answers were quoted. Your letter might embarrass both countries if the Italian Government is led to believe that we desire to establish diplomatic representation now. I wish you to be very careful in such matters and I only mention this to let you know our Government's present feeling.

I have studied with interest your Special Report No. 1 in regard to the statement despatched from Saigon in regard to the issuance of an invitation for a Defence Conference between Formosa, Vietnam and Korea. In spite of your endeavors to clarify our situation with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vu Van Mau, another despatch was received from Saigon of similar content. It seems to us that the foreign pressure on the Vietnam Government is rather strong, and this pressure demands a negative attitude towards such a pact. Therefore, the Vietnam Government has to deny its interest in such a conference. I think we have made enough statements here, but if necessary you can make a statement for the local press denying such reports and labelling this as rumour.

I have also read your CDS report No. 11 and am pleased to note that you have given an outline of the Vietnam Trade situation to our Minister of Commerce and Industry.

It is pleasing to read that the Vietnam Government took such a strong measure with regard to the Japanese business men. It is the only way the Vietnam Government will force the Japanese to make reparations. The Japanese Government will sooner or later have to open up talks under pressure from their business people. If you have an opportunity you should quietly tell some of the Government officials of the wisdom of this act which I believe is the correct one to bring the Japanese to an agreement. You should also explain that the establishment of trade relations is always the first step to obtaining a foothold in the country and no doubt the Japanese have tried to do just that. As youhave said, the situation is so fluid in regard to business and it is open for Asians to move in, as the Colonial rule of France is still in the minds of the people. You should not bypass any opportunity

6/

Wilson Center Digital Archive
李承晚研究院
The Syngman Rhee Institute
Original Scan

to explain that Japan has not given up her expansion program in Asia. It is only that she will use a disguised and more clever method than previously.

62