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June 22, 1956
CDS Report No. 6 from Choi Duk Shin to the President (Syngman Rhee)

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin suggests inviting the President of South Vietnam to South Korea and reports on the initiation of the office's weekly bulletin and Colonel Kim Sang Bong's visit to Saigon.

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June 22, 1956

CDS. REPORT NO. 006

Confidential.

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to submit to Your Excellency my weekly report No. 006 covering the following points:

1. On Monday, June 18, 1956 I received from the Office of Your Excellency the message to all Representatives abroad concerning the numbering of letters and weekly reports to Your Excellency. At the same time I received from the Foreign Minister a telegram in reply to KOLISA No. 5.

2. It is my desire at this time to make to Your Excellency the following recommendation for consideration:

"On the occasion of the ceremony of Your Excellency's Third Term as President of the Republic of Korea that an invitation be extended to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Vietnam to attend this important and formal function."

If Your Excellency favors this recommendation and desires to give me the necessary instructions I shall quietly approach the proper official in the Vietnamese Government and transmit to Your Excellency the reaction to such an invitation being extended.

This recommendation is my thought only and I shall make no mention of it to any person until I receive your advice and instructions.

It is possible the President may not accept such an invitation at this time for the reason that he considers according

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Confidential.

to the National Constituent Assembly he has not yet been elected President of the Republic of Vietnam. I quote below a few lines from the Constitution as now drafted:

"Chapter 10, General Provision, Article 95. The present President of the Republic, vested with power to establish the Republican Regime by popular referendum on October 23, 1955 shall be the First President of the Republic under the Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam.

"The mandate of the President shall start on the date of promulgation of the Constitution."

The feeling is that the draft of Article 95, above quoted, and as written, will be approved by the National Constituent Assembly. It is expected that the work of the Constitution will be completed by July. However, it is further felt that the interior problems after that date will be many and will have to be solved by the President and, therefore, he will be unable to leave the country until many of these problems have been resolved.

There is every reason to believe that the President upon receipt of such a formal and important invitation will send his official representative and that such an invitation will be warmly received by the Vietnamese people.

3. Korean-Vietnamese News Round-up.

This Legation, with its limited facilities and working staff, is attempting to publish a weekly bulletin here in Saigon. We have in the past two weeks issued two bulletins. With this report is submitted Bulletin No. 0003. In this issue we have made a small change: we have a separate Saigon bulletin which is mainly to introduce Korean news items or important statements and events to

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the Vietnamese and foreign residents here; and, the other, for Seoul, which, in the main, is Vietnamese news items to the home country.

The Saigon bulletin is mimeographed in English and in French. When the appropriate time comes the French will be replaced with Vietnamese. The Seoul bulletin is mimeographed only in English. The Saigon one is being well received and with many favorable comments and the demand for copies is increasing. Our real difficulty is that receipt of news from Korea is often five to twelve days late because the news items come by diplomatic pouch and we receive one week's material at a time.

We will continue with the bulletin and try to improve our news items.

4. Suspension of NNSC.

Suspension of the NNSC and the demand for nullifying the Armistice Commission is continuing to receive solemn sympathy in the Vietnamese press. I attach original paper and translation.

5. Courtesy Calls.

This week I made a courtesy call on the Thai Embassy. Also I called on the Secretary of State for Justice, Mr. Nguyen Van Si.

Yesterday the Secretary of State for Information and Youth, Mr. Tran Chanh Thanh, called on me at the Legation. Secretary Thanh is another person mentioned to me by the American Ambassador as being one of the most influential members of the President's Cabinet. Usually, he represents all of the President's Cabinet Members to return calls on the Foreign Diplomatic Representatives.

/He expressed 159

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He expressed appreciation of the effort we have made on the "Korean-Vietnamese News Round-up".

6. Visit of Colonel Kim Sang Bong to Saigon.

On Sunday Colonel Kim Sang Bong arrived in Saigon at the official invitation of the Vietnamese War Veterans Federation, the President of which is the Director of the National Police of Vietnam, General Nguyen Ngoc Le, a very important figure here. The invitation was extended to Colonel Kim by the Vietnamese Delegation while attending the World War Veterans Federation Conference in Brussels. Colonel Kim was given an official welcome at the airport both on arrival and departure, General Le himself being present.

I believe Colonel Kim's attendance at the Conference in Brussels was successful, and the appearance of Korean War Veterans in such conferences with friendly nations will help to bring about a more cordial relationship and a closer understanding.

7. Mr. Sebald's Visit to Saigon.

Mr. Sebald arrived on Monday and I was in the official Diplomatic party to greet him at the airport. I again met Mr. Sebald that evening at a reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes is First Secretary of the American Embassy and an Assistant Director of the United States Operations Mission in Saigon. Yesterday, I attended a luncheon given in Mr. Sebald's honor by Mr. Palmer, Counsellor of the American Embassy and Deputy Director of USOM.

8. Social Activities.

a. Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson have given two dinner parties in my honor at which I have met important American friends of Korea

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and also important Vietnamese persons. Mr. Sanderson served as a U.S. Army Colonel in Korea and later worked as a civilian with KCAC.

b. Miss Dorothy M. Paquette who served in Korea for over two years as Secretary to General Coulter, Agent General, UNKRA, gave a reception in my honor to which were invited over forty persons who had served or worked in Korea, among them being General and Mrs. Williams. I found among this warm gathering many sincere friends of Korea. Miss Paquette is now attached to the State Department serving with USOM in Saigon.

c. On Monday evening I attended the reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes, already mentioned above in Item No. 7.

d. I entertained at a stag dinner the Chinese Charge d'Affaires and Chinese friends on Monday evening and at another stag dinner the APACL friends of the Vietnamese Chapter.

Regarding the APACL, at this time I consider it my duty to report to Your Excellency that the Vietnamese Chapter of APACL have mentioned they prefer that the meeting of the Four-Member Committee (of APACL) be held the 10-13 September, 1956. This will give them as hosts in Saigon ample time to make all necessary preparations.

6 cc for Park Lee

With deepest sentiments of loyalty and esteem, Your Excellency,

I remain,

Respectfully,
Choi Duk Shin
Choi, Duk Shin
Minister of the Republic of Korea
to Vietnam.

His Excellency

President of the Republic of Korea.

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Attachments: Korean-Vietnamese News Round-up, and
Newspaper clipping and translation.