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

March 26, 1956

Letter from His Sacredness Ho-Phap Cong Tac to President Syngman Rhee

Citation:

"Letter from His Sacredness Ho-Phap Cong Tac to President Syngman Rhee", March 26, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-333b-085, 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/121024

Summary:

After offering a detailed account of the separation of North and South Vietnam by foreign powers, Ho-Phap Cong Tac requests that President Rhee support the peaceful reunification of 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

His Sacredness Ho-Phap Pham Cong Tac
Superior of the Caodaism

To Mr. Syngman Rhee, President,
Chief of the Government of South Korea

Excellency:

After 82 years of French domination, on September 3, 1945, the Vietnamese people all at once stood up to liberate itself from this yoke. This important event had its repercussion all over the world and all the great Powers have realized this fact.

During eleven years of continuous struggle for re-winning its national independence, the VietNamese people has suffered inumerable losses both in fortunes and human lives.

Since the defeat of French Troops at Dien Bien-Phu (1954), another mishap much greater then ever has been added to the people of VietNam. In fact, in order to put an end to the hostilities between French and Viet-Minh, the nine Powers present at the Geneve Conference with their noble intention to bring Peace to Viet-Nam, had signed, without suspecting its gravity and to the detriment of VietNamese, an agreement which divides the Viet-Nam in two parts along the 17th parallel, thereby imposing upon this people the reunification of its territory.

With the signing of the said agreement, the 17th parallel, we reflect, was nothing more than a line of demarcation purely and simply of military nature, but it has become practically a true frontier dividing the State of Viet-Nam in two irreconcilable or nay even definitive parts. Thus, the NorthVViet-Nam is governed by Ho-Chi Minh with his Communist Regime and the South by Ngo-Dinh-Diem with his Pro-American Government.

A victim of the international ideological intransigence, this unhappy nation, in stead of receiving aids and alleviations, feels in its deepest sentiments grievously offended for the act of violation by the nine Powers on the right of a people to self-determination.

All this is an evident fact that no one can deny. What is now important is to find a remedy effective enough to this malady. I am pleased to realize here the noble intentions and the persevering efforts of the great neutral Powers to find a peaceful solution for the VietNamese problems.

223

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

As a chief of a Religion whose workiis to put into concrete form the spritual forces of a people having a millenary civilization based upon the Confusian philosophical principles, I can not to look indifferently upon all these sufferings caused from social injustices.

I must, upon this fact, bring my humble cooperation to the efforts already undertaken by the united Powers with a view to remedy the present situation in my country and to help the Vietnamese people out of their misfortune and to bring them Peace and Hapiness.

If I leave my country today, this is above all for assuring my individual freedom and nextly for obtaining the possibility of making appeal openly to the humanitarian sentiments of all the world powers. I hope the latters to assist me in my heavy task of conciliation with my fellow-countrymen in order to preclude them from the disastrous influence of the two antagonistic Blocs which impel them irresistibly toward a fatal war of fratricide.

I permit myself to foward herewith to your Excellency a program of an inconsiderable action, the principle purpose of which is to open a way to the coexistance of the two Regimes (Communist and Nationalist) based upon the creation of a Federate State, a mere solution possible of realizing the reunification of Viet-Nam according to the spirit of the Geneve agreement.

This program was the object of the telegram dated July 21, 1955 which I addressed through the good offices of Mr. Edgar Faure, then the President of the French Government, to the Four Powers, members of the Second Geneve Conference.

For the realization of my mission of Peace, I request the support and guaranty, sincere and effective, of the world's great powers and UN so that I may be assured of an entire liberty of propaganda with my fellow-countrymen without being disturbed or impeded by the two Governments of Ho-Chi-Minh and of Ngo-Dinh-Diem. I am certain that all the Vietnamese, in love with the Ideal of Peace, will welcome fervently this program, if they are allowed to express their thoughts freely.

I make, in consequence, an appeal directed to all the world powers and wish them instantly to assist and support me in this heavy task in view of serving the cause of Justice and Social Love.

I wish you, Excellency, to accept the assurance of my respectful consideration and of my very pious devotion.

Phnom-Penh, March 26, 1956
Ho-Phap

/s/
Pham-Cong-Tac

224