

November 26, 1955

Letter from Choi Duk-shin to Dr. Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Choi Duk Shin discusses his recent correspondence with both South Vietnam President Ngo Dinh Diem and the Foreign Minister about their anti-communist stance and the possibility of establishing a Korean Legation in Saigon, Vietnam.

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26 November 1955

Excellency:

I have the pleasure of reporting to Your Excellency on the letters exchanged recently between the President of the young Republic of Vietnam and I and also between the Foreign Minister of Vietnam and I.

In my letter (inclosed) of 15 October 1955, approximately a week before the day of the general election for Presidency in Vietnam, to President Ngo Dinh Diem, I highly praised Vietnam for her unfailing anti-Communism, anti-French colonialism, and anti-Japanese, and further I pointed out what are needed by Vietnam in three items as shown in the copy of the letter inclosed herewith. I was very much pleased to note that President Ngo Dinh Diem has been in total agreement with me on what I emphasized.

I am also inclosing the copies of the letters exchanged between the Foreign Minister of Vietnam and I for Your Excellency's information.

In relation with the establishment of the ROK Legation in Vietnam, I have been in contact, as often as possible even though I am still tied up with my present responsibilities as a Corps Commander, with our Foreign Minister on the problem of appointing the members of the Legation, and also with General Chung on the Military Attache. I am ready to recommend to Your Excellency on these problems upon receipt of agreement from the Vietnam Government and an official announcement.

As for the building of the Legation in Saigon, Vietnam, Mr. Kim Sang Ryul, representative of the Korean residents in Vietnam, sent me a letter a few days ago saying that he is trying to find a proper building for that use.

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I wish to recommend that Your Excellency will give an advance instruction to our Foreign Minister on whether we will buy the building or use it on the basis of monthly renting so that the Foreign Ministry may take appropriate action in advance.

With my deep sentiments of loyalty and esteem, I remain

Respectfully,



Choi Duk-shin
Lt. Gen. ROKA
Commanding, I ROK Corps

His Excellency
Dr. Syngman Rhee
The President of the Republic of Korea
Seoul, Korea

Inclosures: (1) ltr from the President of Vietnam.
(2) ltr to the President of Vietnam.
(3) ltr from the Foreign Minister of Vietnam.
(4) ltr to the Foreign Minister of Vietnam.