

June 20, 1957
**CDS Report No. 44 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

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CONFIDENTIAL.

CDS REPORT NO.44

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit my Weekly Report No.44 covering the following points:

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2. Presentation of Gifts to Mr. and Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu
3. Follow-up Work of Kolisa-57 Special Mission
4. Vietnam Affairs
5. News from Laos
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1. U.S. Ambassador's call on this Legation
Wednesday, June 19, 1957

On Wednesday, June 19, at 11.30 a.m., the new U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam called at this Legation. He is Ambassador Elbridge Durbrow with whom I became acquainted during my trip by air to Singapore recently and which I have already reported in my Kolisa-57 Special Report No.4 (Trip to Singapore).

Ambassador Durbrow served twice in Moscow. His more recent post there was Counselor of the Embassy from early 1946 to early 1948. He is one of the U.S. "Moscow experts" and the U.S. State Department is making him also one of the "South Asian experts". He was U.S. Consul General to Singapore and has now moved to Vietnam as Ambassador.

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He was born in California. He is 53 years old. He joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1930 and is now a very able career diplomat and gives the impression of "easy to approach".

We talked for half an hour. The contents of our conversation is as follows:

We exchanged greetings and I carried to him the greeting from U.S. Ambassador Dowling from Korea. He told me that he and Ambassador Dowling are very very good friends. I then told him I should like to be in the position to speak to him very frankly because of our acquaintance before he came to Vietnam which made us close friends in the diplomatic corps here in Saigon. Furthermore, we feel that the U.S. and the Republic of Korea are the most closely related countries in the present world. I made reference to him that our struggle for independence was so closely related with his country's fighting against the Japanese in World War II. He interrupted me at this point and said to me that his government had made a big mistake in dividing our country at the 38th Parallel. He said further, of course, it was solely for the purpose of "military occupation". In reply, I said it was certainly the greatest mistake the U.S. Government had ever made in the history of international affairs. All the troubles created in the past 12 years post-war period were caused by this mistake. Even only for the purpose of "military occupation" was foolish thinking. They did not select the natural boundary line; that is, the Manchurian border as the military line. Instead, they selected an imaginary line - no landmark at all.

Since the decision was made under secret talks, Korea could do nothing to prevent this from happening. However, I asked the Ambassador's pardon for my frankness and I said I felt great regret

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that some politicians in the U.S.A. are so shortsighted and are forcing the U.S. government to make another great postwar mistake, that is, to build up Japan as the dominating nation in Asia. By adopting this policy, the U.S. is risking another Pearl Harbor and the neighbouring Asian nations are again frightened by the remembrance of the past experience of Japanese occupation. At this point I showed him the book written by U Nu "Burma under Japanese" and told him this book would give him an idea of how the people in this area feel towards the Japs. The U.S. policy of supporting the Japs domination of Asia is another good reason for the people in South East Asia to suspect the U.S. Government's intentions. I advised him to let one of his staff read this book. He said he himself would read it during his next week's vacation at Dalat (the summer retreat place of South Vietnam).

He then told me he would send me a book written by an Indian concerning the Asian problem. He felt that because of my interest in the study of the Asian problem I would be interested.

He presumably had an appointment at noon and was able to only spend 30 minutes with me this time. However, he said that his house would soon be settled and in good order and he would like to invite me to his home often in order to discuss all these many problems confronting us. He humbly said to me that he is a stranger to the Far East Asia. I asked him to use his influence in his government to try to understand the real problem of Asia. He promised to do the best he can.

During our conversation he also told me that the President of Vietnam had revealed to him the fact that the President is going to visit our country.

I believe this half hour talk with the new U.S. Ambassador is worthy of reporting as above.

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2. Presentation of Gifts to Mr. and Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu

On June 14, at 1100 hours, I made a call on the political advisor to the President, Mr. Ngo Dinh Nhu, one of the younger brothers of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

On this occasion I gave him a description of our famous tortoise vessel written in French and told him that I was going to send the handcraft tortoise vessel modeled from our great Admiral Yi Soon-Shin's tortoise vessel boat and also with a Korean doll for Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, his wife. He read the French text of the said description very quickly and expressed his thanks. It seemed to me that he was very pleased with the gifts from our country.

Our talk was a peculiar one. I had to talk English slowly and Mr. Ngo Dinh Nhu very slowly in French. We both tried our best to understand each other in two different languages. Neither one of us brought in an interpreter.

I congratulated him on the successful trip made by him and his wife prior to the visit of the President of Vietnam to the U.S.A. It was learned that this couple made the final arrangement for the President's visit to Washington. He also congratulated me on the trip I made from the latter part of March to the middle of May. And then he told me that his President was so glad to accept Your Excellency's invitation to visit Korea and said that his President admires Your Excellency very very much.

I then told him that my President and my people have the same admiration for his President and are expecting to exchange views on the world affairs as soon as possible. I further said to him that according to my personal opinion the meeting of two great statesmen will certainly produce a very important decision which will effect the strategy of combating World Communism and maintain world peace for our next generation. He shared with me the same opinion.

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We then turned the trend of our conversation to the situation of the adjacent countries. I told him that it seemed to me the Laotian political leaders are awakening. He agreed on this. Then I asked his opinion on Cambodia. He told me that the politics of Cambodia are a one-man's play conducted by the Crown Prince. He was listening too much to the Frenchman's idea.

This interview lasted about 30 minutes and because I feel it is a worthwhile one I am reporting it.

3. Follow-up of Kolisa-57 Special Mission.

There are no specific developments on this matter this past week except that I mailed out several more thank-you letters and received letters from the following:

CEYLON. A letter from Mr. C.B. Nugawela, the responsible officer of "Temple of Tooth" to thank us for our donation to the temple.

PAKISTAN. A letter from the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan, to thank us for our presentation of books on Korea.

BURMA. A letter from the Private Secretary to Prime Minister U Nu.

Copies of the above mentioned letters will be attached to this report.

4. Vietnam Affairs.

a. There was a news item stating the proposed elevation of Legations to Embassies by Republic of The Philippines and the Republic of Vietnam. It reads:

"The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has decided to elevate the Philippine Mission in Vietnam from a Legation to an Embassy. Thus, the diplomatic relations between the two countries become more and more important.

The young Republic of Vietnam, during the first hours of its foundation, has found in the Republic of the Philippines a devoted friend who is not sparing of its moral and material aid to support it.

Interviewed by a Vietnam press correspondent on the envisaged change in the diplomatic relations of the two countries, Mr. Ezpeleta, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Philippines to Saigon, let it be known that the proposed elevation would be realized next July.

The proposed elevation, Minister Ezpeleta said, is a recognition of the growing importance of Vietnam in the community of nations and the significance role that she is playing in the global struggle for freedom and human dignity."

b. Repatriation of Chinese born in Vietnam.

The Vietnam-Chinese relationship, especially on the question of citizenship of Chinese-born in Vietnam, has sharpened in the past months. During this week the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a communique as follows:

"It is reminded to all concerned that the following dates, suggested by Mr. Yuen Tse Kien, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of China in Saigon, have been accepted by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam:

- June 5: handing over of final lists of these Chinese
- June 15: handing over of the repatriation plan
- July 1 : carrying into effect of this repatriation plan.

"Till June 15, only one list of 630 names has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, although repeated calls have been made previously.

"In addition, this Ministry has forwarded to the Chinese Legation in Saigon a list of 572 Chinese who have been, for a long time, sub-

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jects of expulsion measures and up till now the Government of the Republic of China has refused to take them in charge. These will be part of the first contingent of Chinese to repatriate."

There have been no accurate statistics to show how many Chinese born in Vietnam, it has only revealed the number should be between 150 thousand to 200 thousand. It was learned in the Chinese newspapers that there are about 40 thousand of Chinese born in Vietnam who have submitted their applications for their desire to be repatriated to Taiwan. However, people are wondering how many of the 40 thousand applying people will actually go. This depends on the conditions of:

- 1) how much money and other moveable properties the Vietnamese Government will permit them to take out of the country; and
- 2) what treatment they will receive in Taiwan.

So far the Vietnamese Government is still silent on the above-mentioned (1) and the Chinese Government has only announced a very brief statement of the possible treatment which has already caused several people (the Chinese papers said only very few) to withdraw their applications.

The Chinese Government is in a very inferior position on this problem. If the number of applying people is small, or a fairly large percentage of applying people withdraw their applications at the last minute of evacuation, it will create a great blow of prestige of Nationalist China. On the contrary, if there will be a very large number of repatriated people from Vietnam, the financial burden of the government will be much increased and will create lots of social and economic problems which at this moment may not have entered their thoughts. This great task of repatriation of Chinese from Vietnam will be a significant test of Nationalist Chinese

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Government's prestige and ability. The Vietnamese Government has accepted the Chinese Government's proposal of repatriation on one hand also has ordered all the overseas Chinese not born in Vietnam to register as foreigners. The time limit is up to the 22nd of this month (only two more days left up to this time of reporting).

A little over one hundred thousand Overseas Chinese have obeyed this order. There is no sign to postpone this time limit despite the fact that many Overseas Chinese have failed to comply with this order. Nobody can prophesy what the next step is that the Vietnamese Government will take in this particular problem.

c. Stop-over of Minister Kim Young Shik.

Our new envoy to France, Minister Kim Young Shik passed through Saigon with his wife and children en route to France on June 15. The Government of Vietnam sent her Protocol Officer of the Foreign Ministry to the airport to take care of the one-hour stop-over of Minister Kim and his family. Also the French Ambassador to Vietnam sent his Deputy as his representative to the airport to greet them.

I and the members of this Legation and a few of our compatriots were also at the airport.

The correspondent of AFP had an interview with Minister Kim. The outcome of the interview will be attached in the newsclipping.

d. Air Force General Kim Chung Jul.

General Kim Chung Jul with his two assistants stopped in Saigon for about half an hour on their way back home at 1130 hours on June 20th. The airport raised our National Flag to welcome General Kim's party and the U.S. Air Attache Colonel McNeese represented his Ambassador to greet General Kim at the airport. I and the members of my staff and a few of our compatriots were at the airport to congratulate General Kim on his very successful mission. Photographs and newsclippings are attached in the newsclipping to this report.

e. Opening of the Legation of the Federal Republic of Germany in Saigon.

With the agreement of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, the government of the Federal Republic of Germany has decided to install a legation in Saigon. The new Legation will be headed by Mr. Albert Toby Tafel, who has been up to the present Chief of the German Commercial Mission in Vietnam.

On June 12, Mr. Albert Toby Tafel handed to Mr. Vu Van Mau, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a letter from Mr. Von Brentano, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Federal Republic, appointing him as permanent Charge d'Affaires until the nomination of a Minister plenipotentiary.

With the opening of the German Legation the strength of the Diplomatic Corps in Saigon is increased as follows:

Embassies	5
Legations	10
Visitor Apostolic of Vatican	1
Consulates	<u>8</u>
Total representation	24

5. News from Laos.

Sentiments have been mounting in the past few days for the settlement of the three-week old cabinet crisis of Laos. On June 19th there was news from the capital of Laos telling that Premier designate Katay Don Sasorith would obtain the participation of out-going Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma. Today, June 20th, there is another news item that Prime Minister Katay has presented a list of his cabinet composition to the National Assembly of which the former Prime Minister Prince Souvanna Phouma has the portfolio of Foreign Affairs and in his speech to the National Assembly he still has set a two-month time limit to reach a solution and affirmed that

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if the Pathet Lao fighting units are not in agreement, it will be of no use to further the negotiations.

I regret to report that at the last minute of writing this report there came a news stating that Mr. Katay has failed to form his cabinet by being short of only one vote (18 in favor, 8 against with two abstentions). He needed 19 votes which would have formed a two-third majority of 28 assemblymen present). However, I feel that the Kingdom of Laos tried to choose a significant anti-Communist leader as Prime Minister which means the Laotian leaders are awakening to the danger of Communism and hope to remain in the camp of the Free World.

I still hope the political situation in Laos will come out in favor of the Free World so that Your Excellency's farsighted efforts will not be in vain.

6. Social Activities.

a. June 19. In the evening I was invited to a reception by the Director of the USOM and Mrs. Barrows in honour of his departing Deputy, Mr. Daly C. Lavergne.

Mr. Lavergne has been in Saigon since August, 1953 and was instrumental in making so effective the Operation EXODUS from the North. He is also the man in USOM responsible for the success of the resettlement of the abandoned ricelands CAISAN.

b. June 15. In the evening I was invited to a cocktail party given by Major General and Mrs. Samuel Myers. He is Deputy Chief of MAAG.

c. June 17. In the evening I was invited to a reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Daly C. Lavergne. Mr. Lavergne is departing for Manila to take up the post there of Deputy Director of USOM.



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With sentiments of highest esteem and deepest loyalty,

Respectfully,

Choi Duk Shin

Choi, Duk Shin
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of Korea to Vietnam

His Excellency

President of Republic of Korea.

- Attachments: 1. Copies of Letters
2. Photos and Newsclipping

Attachment 1 to CDS Report N° 44.

Copies of letters from :

- the Office of the Prime Minister of the Union of Burma, Rangoon.
- Sri Dalada Maligawa, Ceylon.
- National Assembly, Karachi.