

**May 25, 1957**

**CDS Report No. 42 from Choi Duk Shin to the  
President (Syngman Rhee)**

**Citation:**

"CDS Report No. 42 from Choi Duk Shin to the President (Syngman Rhee)", May 25, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-330-016, 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.umd.edu/document/120903>

**Summary:**

Choi Duk Shin reports on a conversation with Ngô Đình Diệm on a proposed visit by Diệm to South Korea. They also discuss the political situation in Burma, including U Nu's attitudes toward Japan, China, and communism.

**Credits:**

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

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

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CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT No.42

Excellency:

I have the honour to submit my Report No.42 covering my audience with His Excellency the President of Vietnam and talks with the Foreign Minister of Vietnam as follows:

1. Audience with His Excellency President of Vietnam and presentation of Your Excellency's letter to His Excellency.

As I indicated in my last report the President was expected to arrive on May 23rd, Thursday, and I had the honour to be received by His Excellency the next day, May 24th, Friday, at 1700 hours.

I told His Excellency, the President of Vietnam, that I had the honour to present a letter from His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Korea. I further reported to His Excellency that I had received advice from his Foreign Minister, Mr. Vu Van Mau, that I should transmit this letter to His Excellency personally.

He read it immediately and told me that he accepted this invitation from Your Excellency with great pleasure and that he felt greatly honoured. He further told me that he is eager to make this trip to see Your Excellency whom he admires so much.

I told him that because of the fact that I was leaving for Korea on Tuesday, May 28th, to report to Your Excellency on the forthcoming visit of His Excellency to Korea and also to report on the goodwill trips I had made of South Asia, I would ask the advice of His Excellency as to the approximate date of his visit to Korea.

In reply His Excellency said that he first had to make his programme. As far as firm dates were concerned it would not be possible in June because the National Assembly is in session; in October there will be the meeting of the Colombo Plan; and in December there will again be a session of the National Assembly. Through his mentioning these months I got the indication that the possible dates of his visit would fall either in July, August, September or November. He indicated in his talk that he may be able to make the trip in this year.

Although it has not been officially announced, there are several other countries which have invited His Excellency to visit them. They are Australia, Thailand and The Philippines. There are also some rumors that India and Burma have also invited him.

He then inquired of my recent trip. I told His Excellency that generally we shared the same sympathy because those countries which I have visited all were or had been under colonial rule and also many countries had been under Japanese occupation.

I also told him it gave me great pleasure to tell him that the prestige of His Excellency and his country is rapidly rising. That people in these countries are astonished at how quickly His Excellency has made such remarkable progress in such a short two years.

He then inquired of the situation in Burma and the attitude of Prime Minister U Nu. I told him that the situation in Burma is not too optimistic a one. They appear to be frightened by Red China and which is unnecessary. They hesitate to clean out all the Communist elements inside their country which is so necessary. They will never be in a position to develop themselves and to defend aggression from the outside if their own house is not clean on the inside.

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As far as Prime Minister U Nu is concerned, I told His Excellency that I did not know him too well because I could only see him in Thailand, but did not talk with him. I was pretty certain of his dislike of the Japanese occupation because I had read U Nu's book "Burma under Japanese Rule". However, I was really not too sure of his general attitude towards the Communists. I told His Excellency further that I knew of course that His Excellency had tried to cultivate Prime Minister U Nu during his trip to Vietnam. I further said that the Prime Minister himself might be alright, but that I had found a man who had been in Russia for the last eight years as Burmese Ambassador. The President asked me if this gentleman is of Minister rank in the cabinet. I told him that as far as I knew he is not a Cabinet member right now. However, he is sitting in the Prime Minister's office as Chief Secretary, presumably he is doing many important things for the Prime Minister.

I then congratulated His Excellency on his very successful trip to the U.S.A. His Excellency in return stated that the goodwill trips I had made seemed to be worthwhile.

The audience lasted for about 35 minutes and I have the honour to report on the audience as above.

2. Talks with Foreign Minister of Vietnam.

On May 26th, Sunday morning, the Foreign Minister himself telephoned to me directly. He told me that his President had instructed him to inform me that he proposes the date of his visit to Korea to take place in November. I thanked him for giving me this information despite the fact that it was on Sunday and an off-duty time.

Monday I called on him and confirmed the telephone conversation. So I cabled Your Excellency that the month proposed for the

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State visit of His Excellency to our country would be in  
November.

We then discussed the matter of announcing the  
President's visit and also the matter of security which I  
will report to Your Excellency orally.

With sentiments of deepest loyalty and highest  
esteem.

Respectfully,



Choi Duk Shin

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary  
Republic of Korea to Vietnam

His Excellency  
President of Republic of Korea.