

July 26, 1957

**Letter No. 79 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to
Minister Duk Shin Choi**

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Summary:

President Rhee responds briefly to Choi's previous report, commenting specifically on the dangers of Japan.

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Number 79

To: Minister Duk Shin Choi
From: The President

Thank you for your Weekly Report Number 048 dated July 18th and also for the attached newsclippings.

I fully agree with you we have to counteract Japanese expansionism. Whenever you talk to the Vietnamese authorities make them fully understand what Japan is after and they should do everything to prevent her from getting American aid for Asian nations. Unless the Vietnam government informs the American government of their policy to stop Japan from becoming again a world power their efforts to stem the Japanese tide will mean very little because it is American money and pro-Jap Americans who have made Japan what she is today and what she will be tomorrow.

As you undoubtedly know, Kishi is trying to make another trip to Southeast Asia; this time to the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand. Since Japan is the second largest buyer of Australian wool the Australians were forced to sign a trade agreement with her whereby they are to import certain Japanese goods.

The world knows of the danger of Communism, America in particular but the Americans have forgotten the danger of Japan and it is just as difficult now as it was forty years ago to tell them what Japan will try to do in the end. If Japan becomes strong enough she will tie up with Russia and bring America to her knees.

Unless there is a possibility of trade between Vietnam and Korea what is the use of an exchange of a good will mission. As you know what we have I will ask the Commerce Minister to give you a concrete list of export items and wish you would find out what could be sold in Vietnam. On the other hand let us have a list of their goods which could be imported to Korea.

In the meantime I will think over about the good will mission so please do not say anything. As you yourself said, the person who heads it should be high-ranking but the people you have in mind have so far declined to go abroad.

With regard to Minister Duc's recommendation for such a mission, please do not press on it but wait for the Vietnamese government to make the first move.

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Minister Han in Washington informed us that you had approached the American Ambassador in Saigon relative to our desire to open up relations with the Malayan nation which will be made independent in August of this year.

I must tell you that we have no intention of establishing diplomatic relations with Malaya at the present time.