

November 15, 1957
**CDS Report No. 63 from Choi Duk Shin to the
President (Syngman Rhee)**

Citation:

"CDS Report No. 63 from Choi Duk Shin to the President (Syngman Rhee)", November 15, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-334-025, 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/121047>

Summary:

Choi Duk Shin reports on President Diem's return from India, Japanese Prime Minister Kishi's upcoming tour of Southeast Asia, and recent Vietnamese events.

Credits:

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

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

November 15, 1957

CONFIDENTIAL

CDS REPORT NO. 063

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit this Weekly Report No. 063 which is covering the following subjects:

1. Receipt of Instructions
2. President Ngo Dinh Diem Returns from India
3. Forthcoming Tour of Japan's Premier Kishi to Southeast Asia
4. Opening of Korean Language Course
5. Korean Delegation of Disabled Veterans Visits Vietnam
6. Social Activities.

1. Receipt of Instructions

In the last week's pouch, I have received Your Excellency's instruction No. 97 dated November 6, 1957 together with several informational data. I am deeply appreciative for Your Excellency's warm kindness and generosity in sending those materials to me.

According to a telegram from Your Excellency's office, I have sent First Secretary P.S. Son and Third Secretary Iel Hong to the airport to welcome Mr. Robert Smith, New York Times Far Eastern editor. He came to Saigon on November 14 via Air France from Manila for a four-day stopover in this capital on the way to Karachi. I have instructed to my staff

- 2 -

to say to him about the telegram and all possible help during his stay in Saigon. He is going to leave here on November 18.

2. President Ngo Dinh Diem Returns from India

President Ngo Dinh Diem returned to Saigon on November 9 after a five-day state visit to India.

I have been at the airport to greet him for his safe arrival from India.

The main highlights of President Ngo's state visit to India are attached to this Report, as were in the previous report, for Your Excellency's reference.

a. I have carefully reviewed the speeches made by the President during his visit to India, and wish to represent some portions of his speeches.

In an address at Indian Council for World Affairs, President Ngo said, "India has made a lasting contribution to our civilization through Buddhism and Brahmaism."

Also mentioning on Mahatma Gandhi, he said, "He is an Asian leader who had the boldness of combining practice with theory. This theory is that of revolution by non-violence and the continuity of the Indian spiritual heritage."

Upon arrival at Saigon, the President said in a Governmental communique that India gives all the under-developed countries an instructive and encouraging example from the theoretical as well as practical point of view, and also highly praised "the remarkable efforts of reconstruction and internal development accomplished and being pursued by the Indian Government and people."

- 3 -

Through their joint communique, President Ngo and Prime Minister Nehru made it clear that they have agreed that with the terrible advances in the development of weapons of mass destruction the most urgent problem before the people of the world is the maintenance of peace in the world which is vital for their survival. They also expressed their hope that the problem of Vietnam will be solved peacefully and in the best interests of the people of Vietnam.

It is apparent that Vietnam asked Indian leaders to recognize the development achieved by Vietnam and assure her to help in case north Vietminh invades the south. The north Vietminh Communists is actually stronger than the south at the present stage in the military might, and the Republic of Vietnam is eager to have assurance of India in her function as Chairman of Supervisory Commission in Indochina to support her in the worst case.

One important statement which might draw Your Excellency's attention is that of President Ngo released at New Delhi on November 9 on the position of Vietnam in respect to SEATO question. He said that "Vietnam accepts neither foreign military bases, nor foreign troops on its territory. It is not considering the adherence to any military alliance at present. It is not a member of SEATO but its territory is covered by this organization."

b. On the state visit of President Ngo, the major press reactions are as follows:

Agence France Presse (AFP), a Western press, said:

"Without abandoning his strongly anti-Communist

- 4 -

policy, the President of Vietnam should endeavour to recreate a united Asia based on its genuine cultural and spiritual values. Free Vietnam will thus enter a community which, when need be, could give her aid and protection.

The fact that the wealthy Indian nationals in Saigon are going ahead smoothly with their business while their compatriots in North Vietnam must close down their shops, should not be forgotten by New Delhi policymakers."

The Time of India, an influential daily in New Delhi, said in its editorial that "President Ngo whose toughness of mind is watched only by his sense of modesty exemplifies in himself an almost Gandhian approach in his puritanical zeal to tone up the moral fiber of his people," while expressing hope that the President will "do nothing that might increase tension in Southeast Asia."

The Time of Vietnam, a voice of the Vietnamese people, said:

"It carries the full weight of its significance as a landmark of the foreign policy of the Republic of Vietnam. It is the hope of Vietnamese people that the Presidential visit will lay the lasting foundations for such an understanding and relationship by cleaning away all possible misunderstanding."

c. In my humble views, there are some implications on [President Ngo's visit to India.

First, President Ngo assured to Prime Minister Nehru that he will solve the problem of Vietnam by peaceful means and respect the role of India in the International

6 copies
Nov. 27

103

- 5 -

Supervisory Commission in Indochina, and at the same time he gave Nehru the assurance that Vietnam will not enter any military alliance.

Second, on the other hand, Nehru seemingly assured to President Ngo that he will maintain favorable attitude toward Vietnam in international affairs as well as at International Supervisory Commission in Indochina.

Third, President Ngo has apparently failed in obtaining formal recognition from India on his country during the visit. At present, the two countries have exchanged Consul-Generals. There is possibility that the two leaders have exchanged views in this regard.

In conclusion, I may say that the visit of President Ngo to India was nothing more than courtesy one, and has brought almost nothing in real sense for settlement of outstanding problems between the two countries, except exchange of views generally on world affairs today; in particular on that of Southeast Asia.

3. Forthcoming Tour of Japan's Premier Kishi
To Southeast Asia

The forthcoming tour of Japanese Prime Minister Kishi to the Southeast Asian countries is quite worthy of particular attention in view that the tour is the second attempt to pursue the people and Government in this area to the line which Japan is so desperately trying for her economic expansionism.

As far as Vietnam is concerned, Kishi's visit will also be connected with the settlement of reparations issue.

- 6 -

In my humble judgement, there might be some of conclusion in this regard through the talks with President Ngo.

According to information which I gained, the Japanese is ready to make concession for the payment of \$80 million, almost half of what Vietnam claims.

Japan is reported to have a plan to send the special envoy to Vietnam next month in order to implement the matter which might be agreed in principle by Kishi and President Ngo.

Japanese Prime Minister Kishi is reported to arrive in Saigon on November 19 as his first step of the second Southeast Asian tour, and leave for Cambodia and Laos on November 21.

In this connection, the Legation in Saigon is publishing special issue of "Weekly Bulletin" in order to give warning Asian people against Japan's real intentions in this part of the world. This publication will reach to the countries in this area prior to Kishi's visit.

Permit me, Your Excellency, to have your high consideration on the matter which I have faced so far in respect to social activities. I had been invited by the President and the Foreign Minister of Vietnam respectively in honour of the Japanese Ambassador last month, but I refused politely to be present at the events.

Looking forward the Japanese Prime Minister's visit to this country, there must be some invitation to me as a member of diplomatic corps in Vietnam. Unless Your Excellency give further comments in this regard, I wish to

105

refuse to be with the Japanese in the future as well as in the past.

I attach herewith the itinerary of Japanese Prime Minister Kishi's trip for Your Excellency's reference.

4. Opening of Korean Language Course

I wish to report to Your Excellency with great pleasure and honour on opening of Korean language course in Vietnam. Increasing demands of the public in Vietnam to study the Korean made it possible to have a language course in the Free Pacific Language Institute. In this connection I have already reported to Your Excellency.

The opening ceremony was held at the Institute on November 11, while many people who have enormous interests in Korea were present. I made an address at the ceremony, stressing strengthening of cultural relations between Vietnam and Korea.

I told the people that "This is the first time that the Korean language is taught in this part of the world. Today, it will put a historical mark in the Korean culture in Southeast Asia. This cultural exchange is the bridge which must link more tightly the Korean and Vietnamese in their common struggle against Communism."

In this regard, I have sent a letter to our Minister of Education, requesting early delivery of text books of Korean language. The Legation in Saigon has prepared all the materials for the course and Lt. Col. Teak Kun Lee, military attache, is taking care of this matter. At present, the Korean course has been holding one hour in the evening,

*Request to you
to supply as soon as
possible.
already sent
Nov 15*

- 8 -

so that there is no interference in official functions of the Legation members. 29 students are now attending the course, and there is a sign of increasing demands for one more class.

I am certain that the course will bring about tremendous fruits for closer friendship between our two peoples.

5. Korean Delegation of Disabled Veterans Visits Vietnam

Four-man delegation of Korean Disabled Veterans Association who had attended the World Veterans Conference held at West Berlin visited Vietnam this week. They arrived at Saigon on November 13 from Rome for a five-day stopover in this capital of Vietnam. The delegation, accompanied by the military attache of this Legation, inspected the training center of the Vietnamese Army on November 16, while receiving one of the warmest welcome. Three-star General Le, counterpart of Vietnam to the Korean delegation expressed most heartfelt welcome to them. On November 16, the members of the Korean delegation visited the headquarters of Vietnamese War Veterans Association for very efficient exchange of views. At the same time they inspected a manufacturing factory which is operating by disabled veterans.

Their trip to Vietnam was quite worthy in promoting better understanding and cooperation between Korean and Vietnamese veterans. Korean veterans have had very good impression on this country.

As it was already reported by the press, their activities at the Berlin conference has greatly contributed to the national cause of our country.

They will leave here on November 18 for Korea.

101

- 9 -

6. Social Activities

a. On November 9, Saturday, in the evening, I was invited by young artist Mr. Tu Duyen to attend his hand-stamping exhibition.

Later in the evening, I went to airport to greet President Ngo Dinh Diem who was returning from his state visit to India.

b. On November 11, Monday, I presided over the opening ceremony of the Korean language course at the Free Pacific Language Institute, and was invited to a dinner by the Institute Director.

c. On November 13, Wednesday, I welcomed the Korean delegation of Disabled Veterans to World Veterans Conference held at West Berlin.

d. On November 14, Thursday, Mr. Son and Mr. Hong went to airport to welcome Mr. Robert A. Smith, New York Times Far East Chief Editor.

e. On November 15, Friday, I attended the reception given by General Williams, Chief of M.A.A.G.

With the sentiments of deepest loyalty
and highest esteem,

Respectfully,



Choi Duk Shin
Minister to Vietnam

His Excellency
The President
Republic of Korea

108



- 10 -

- Attachments:
1. Itinerary of Japanese Prime Minister
Kishi's trip to Southeast Asia
 2. Informational data on President Ngo's
trip to India. (2)

Copy to Minister of Foreign Affairs

109

Attachment 1.

ITINERARY OF JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER
NOBUSUKE KISHI'S TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

November	18	Departure	Tokyo
"	19	Arrival	Hongkong
		Departure	"
		Arrival	Saigon
"	21	Departure	"
		Arrival	PhnomPenh
"	23	Departure	"
		Arrival	Vientiane
"	24	Departure	"
		Arrival	Saigon
		Departure	"
		Arrival	Kuala-Lumpur
"	25	Departure	"
		Arrival	Singapore
"	26	Departure	"
		Arrival	Djakarta
"	28	Departure	"
"	29	Arrival	Melbourne
"	30	Departure	"
		Arrival	Sydney
December	1	Departure	"
		Arrival	Ohakea
"	3	Departure	"
		Arrival	Canberra
"	5	Departure	"
"	6	Arrival	Manila
"	7	Departure	"
"	8	Arrival	Tokyo

Premier Kishi's suite will include 13 members, among whom, Mr. Kiichi Aichi, Secretary General of Cabinet, Mr. Takizo Matsumoto, Vice-Minister Parliamentary of Foreign Affairs, 2 members of the House of Representatives, 1 member of the House of Councilors.

No. KLS 0348-233-57

Saigon, November II, 1957

Excellency,

I have the honor to submit to Your Excellency as follows the receipts and Expenditures of the Legation during the month of October 1957.

BUDGET COMPARISON FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1957

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BUDGET ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT EXPENDED</u>	<u>BUDGET BALANCE FOR OCTOBER, 57</u>	<u>BUDGET BALANCE UP TO OCTOBER 31, 1957</u>
	\$ 2,598.00	\$ 2,595.36	\$ 2.64	\$ 216.11
<u>Salaries</u>	\$ 1,448.00	\$ 1,448.00	----	----
Minister 500				
Ist Secretary 340				
3rd Secretary 308				
	<u>1,148</u>			
<u>Wage</u> 300				
Local Secretaries & Chauffeur				
Total <u>1,448</u>				

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BUDGET ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT EXPENDED</u>	<u>BUDGET BALANCE FOR OCTOBER, 57</u>	<u>BUEGET BALANCE UP TO OCTOBER 31, 1957</u>
<u>Office Rent & Maintenance</u> \$ 500		\$ 500	\$ ---	\$ ---
<u>Telephone & Cable</u> 175		175.52	- 0.52	- 70.44
<u>Printing & Stationary</u> 50		48.06	1.94	- 38.38
<u>Postage & Pouch</u> 50		23.70	26.30	128.76
* <u>Office Supplies</u> 25		101.00	- 76.00	-160.26
<u>Représentation</u> 200		200.00	---	---
<u>Miscellaneous & Contingency</u> 100		36.36	63.64	432.34
a - Newspaper & Magazine 6.02				
b - Photo 13.33				
c - Divers (Taxi, Tip, etc) 17.01				
Total 36.36				
<u>Car Allowance</u> 50		62.72	- 12.72	- 75.91
 Grand Total	 \$2,598.00	 \$ 2,595.36	 \$ 2.64	 \$ 216.11

- * Remarks - 1. \$ 100 from Budget Allowance for Representation item was set over to Office Supplies item.
2. £ 866. 1s. 8d. for Car Purchase is not included in the above report.

Choi Duk Shin
Choi Duk Shin
Minister to Vietnam

His Excellency
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Copy to Office of the President

← This Copy for →