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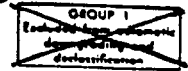
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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 93-68

1.5(e)

3.4(b)(1)

Document # 143

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI

SUBJECT RETIRED GENERAL TRAN VAN DON'S VIEW THAT THE BUDDHISTS
STOPPED ANTIGOVERNMENT AGITATION TOO SOON

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON [REDACTED] FIELD NO. [REDACTED]

SOURCE

1.5(e)

3.4(b)(1)

1. [REDACTED]

1.5(e)

3.4(b)(1)

[REDACTED] RETIRED GENERAL TRAN VAN DON LAMENTED THE FACT THAT THE
BUDDHISTS HAD STOPPED THEIR ANTIGOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN "IN THE MIDDLE".
THUAN EXPLAINED TO DON THAT THE BUDDHISTS HAD NOT WANTED TO BECOME
TOO INVOLVED IN POLITICS (SIC) OR PERSONALITIES. THUAN CLAIMED THE
BUDDHISTS ONLY WANT AN ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE GOOD OF THE
COUNTRY. DON REPLIED THAT IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT THE BUDDHISTS HAD
NOT CONTINUED TO INDICATE LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN
CAO KY, FOR IN THAT CASE DON WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE AGAINST

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1.5(e)

3.4(b)(1)

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5/4/98

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1.5(e)
3.4(b)(1)

(classification) (dissem controls)

THE GOVERNMENT.

2. PROFESSOR THUAN TOLD DON THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED IN DON BECAUSE DON HAD EARLIER HINTED THAT HE COULD TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT IF THE BUDDHISTS MOVED IN CENTRAL VIETNAM. DON CONTINUED TO STICK WITH HIS ARGUMENT THAT THE BUDDHISTS HAD STOPPED TOO SOON. DON STATED THAT HE WAS NOT IN CONTROL OF THE ARMY AND HE HAD NEITHER THE MONEY NOR THE CAPABILITY OF HANDING OUT PROMOTIONS IN ORDER TO BUY OFF KEY OFFICERS.

3. THUAN MAINTAINED THAT THE BUDDHISTS DO NOT WANT DON TO STAGE A COUP BUT RATHER TO ORGANIZE SOUTHERNERS POLITICALLY AND INSTILL IN THEM SOME POLITICAL REACTIONS SO THAT THEY WILL PLAY A ROLE IN THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL LIFE. THUAN SAID THAT DON HAS TWO POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS; THE "LIEN TRUONG" FOR INTELLECTUALS AND THE "DONG NAI" FOR WORKERS. (FIELD COMMENT: [REDACTED] REPORTED THAT THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAD BEEN GRANTED OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION PERMITS.)

1.5(e)
3.4(b)(1)

4. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USAID JUSPAO USMACV USARV NAVFORV
7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT.

REPORT CLASS. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ [REDACTED]

1.5(e)
3.4(b)(1)

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