

*W. Feltman* 7-6

# TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS  
EO 12958 3.4(b)(1) >25Yrs (C)

COUNTRY	SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	BUDDHIST OPTIMISM IN OVERTHROW OF DIEM REGIME; TRAINING OF MONKS, NUNS AND STUDENTS; AND, TENTATIVE LIST OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS	DATE DISTR.	17 AUGUST 1963 EO 12958 3.4(b)(1) >25Yrs (C)
PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE	REFERENCES	IN 01026 EO 12958 3.4(b)(1) >25Yrs (C)
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	FIELD REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	VIETNAM, SAIGON		
APPRAISAL	SEE BELOW		

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE APPR THE BUDDHISTS HAVE PREVIOUSLY MADE STATEMENTS AGAINST THE DIEM REGIME; HOWEVER, IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER THICH THIEN MINH AND THICH TRI QUANG HAVE DRAWN UP A LIST OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SHOULD DIEM BE OVERTHROWN.

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1. BY 12 AUGUST 1963 BUDDHIST LEADERS WERE OPTIMISTIC THAT PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM COULD BE OVERTHROWN WITHIN SIX MONTHS AND WERE ORGANIZED FOR A STRUGGLE OF SEVERAL MONTHS. MONKS AND NUNS WERE BEING GIVEN INSTRUCTION IN POLITICAL MATTERS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WAS BEING STRESSED.

2. THICH THIEN MINH, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF VIETNAMESE BUDDHISTS (GAVB) IN CENTRAL VIETNAM, AND THICH TRI QUANG, HEAD OF CENTRAL VIETNAM GAVB, BOTH STRONGLY OPPOSED TO NEUTRALISM, HAD DRAWN UP A TENTATIVE LIST OF MEN WHOM THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE GOVERNMENT IF DIEM WERE OVERTHROWN. IT INCLUDED PHAM KHAC SUU

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC	AID	USIA	OCI	ONE	OCR	ORR	XX	OO	EXI
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IN 01026

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

PAGE TWO

A KEY FIGURE OF THE CARAVELLE PETITION OF APRIL 1960 AND ORGANIZER OF THE "BLOC FOR FREEDOM AND PROGRESS" (KHOI TU DO VA TIEN BO), SEVERAL OTHER SIGNERS OF THE CARAVELLE PETITION, BUT NO BONZES. [REDACTED] COMMENT. A BONZE WAS EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE GAVB BECAUSE HE INSISTED ON RUNNING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE 31 AUGUST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. PHAM KHAC SUU IS HIGHLY REGARDED FOR HIS COURAGE AND INTEGRITY, ALTHOUGH HE IS CONSIDERED TOO EASILY INFLUENCED.)

3. FIELD DISSEM. STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMACV MAAG AID USIA 2ND AIR DIVISION 9TH FIELD STATION CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.

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END OF MESSAGE

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