

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

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COUNTRY	SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO.	TDCS DB-3/657,724
SUBJECT	NEW MILITARY COMMITTEE FORMED; [REDACTED]	DATE DISTR.	4 NOVEMBER 1963
DATE OF INFO.	4 NOVEMBER 1963 AND AS STATED	PRECEDENCE	PRIORITY
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	VIETNAM, SAIGON (4 NOVEMBER 1963)	REFERENCES	IN 53711
APPRAISAL	SEE BELOW		EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs (C)

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

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APPR THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A POWER PLAY AND DISSENSION EXISTS AMONG THE GENERALS.
PARAGRAPH 5 IS PROBABLY TRUE.

1. ON 4 NOVEMBER 1963, ALTHOUGH FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF VIETNAM NGUYEN NGOC THO HAD BEEN DESIGNATED PREMIER OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM, HE IS NOTHING NOW AS MAJOR GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH IS STILL IN COMMAND. BIG MINH HAS FORMED A NEW MILITARY COMMITTEE OF WHICH HE IS PRESIDENT; MAJOR GENERAL TON THAT DINH, MINISTER OF INTERIOR DESIGNATE, IS VICE PRESIDENT; AND INCLUDED ON THE COMMITTEE ARE: BRIGADIER GENERAL TRAN THIEN KHIEM; BRIGADIER GENERAL LE VAN KIM; BRIGADIER GENERAL NGUYEN HUU CO, COMMANDER, 7TH DIVISION; BRIGADIER GENERAL NGUYEN VAN THIEU, COMMANDER, 5TH DIVISION; BRIGADIER GENERAL LAM VAN PHAT, FORMER COMMANDER, 2ND DIVISION; BRIGADIER GENERAL DO MAU, CHIEF OF

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CASE # NLK-97-29
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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC	XX	XX	OCI	ONE	XX	XX	XX	XX	DDI
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OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE TO:	DIRNSA (PROD WO)	AFSSO	WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED FOR RELEASE	STATE (RCI)(FOR HUGHES)	DIA/CIIC	SIT ROOM
DATE: NOV 2002	JCS	NIC	
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MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE; BRIGADIER GENERAL DO CAO TRI, COMMANDER, 1ST CORPS AREA; BRIGADIER GENERAL LE VAN NGHIEM, COMMANDER, SPECIAL FORCES; BRIGADIER GENERAL MAI HUU XUAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE; AND, BRIGADIER GENERAL PHAM XUAN CHIEU.

2. MAJOR GENERAL TRAN VAN MINH HAD BEEN OFFERED THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION, BUT REFUSED THE POSITION; COLONEL NGUYEN VAN Y WAS NOT ARRESTED AND IS STILL DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION. TRAN VAN MINH WAS THEN OFFERED THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND NATIONAL EDUCATION, BUT HE ALSO REFUSED THAT POSITION, INFORMING BIG MINH THAT HE WANTED TO HELP, BUT THOUGHT THAT THE MILITARY SHOULD NOT TAKE JOBS WHICH THEY COULD NOT HANDLE BECAUSE OF LACK OF EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING. TRAN VAN MINH SAID THAT HE DID NOT FEEL THAT HE COULD WORK WITH MAJOR GENERAL TON THAT DINH OR WITH BRIGADIER GENERAL MAI HUU XUAN AS HE WOULD HAVE HAD TO DO HAD HE ACCEPTED THE POSITIONS OFFERED HIM BY BIG MINH. TRAN VAN MINH WAS MOST DEJECTED AND DISCOURAGED, WHICH HE WAS TRULY ALARMED AT THE MANNER IN/EVENTS WHICH WERE TAKING SHAPE. COMMENT. TRAN VAN MINH CLAIMED THAT TON THAT DINH WAS OUT OF HIS HEAD AND IN THE THROES OF POWER MADNESS, A MALADY WHICH IS BEGINNING TO CREEP INTO THE OTHERS.)

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3. DUONG VAN HIEU, SPECIAL POLICE CHIEF OF THE DIEM REGIME, HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND A DECREE ISSUED FOR HIS EXECUTION, BUT BIG MINH HAD TO ASK GENERAL DON, WHO IN TURN HAD TO ASK GENERAL KHIEM BEFORE IT COULD BE DETERMINED THAT A DECREE HAD ACTUALLY BEEN ISSUED. THE SAME PROCEDURE WAS FOLLOWED WITH COLONEL LE QUANG TUNG, DIEM'S CHIEF OF SPECIAL FORCES, AND HIS BROTHER, LE QUANG TRIEU,

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CHIEF OF STAFF, SPECIAL FORCES, EVEN THOUGH BIG MINH HAD WANTED THEM HELD OVER AND PROPERLY TRIED. THERE IS UNCERTAINTY WHETHER TRAN KIM TUYEN, FORMER CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY SERVICE IS UNDER ARREST, OR MERELY UNDER PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. DINH AND XUAN WANTED TUYEN ARRESTED AND IMMEDIATELY TRIED, BUT DON HAS OPPOSED THEM.

4. DUONG VAN MINH EXPLODED IN ANGER AND VENTED HIS WRATH FOR FULLY FIVE MINUTES ON 4 NOVEMBER OVER WHAT HE FELT WAS UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE CONCERNING THE ARREST OF TRAN QUOC BUU, PRESIDENT, GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF VIETNAMESE LABOR. HE APPEARED TO BE REFERRING TO AN ENVELOPE WHICH CONTAINED AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT ASKING FOR THE RELEASE OF BUU. PREMIER THO ADVOCATED BUU'S RELEASE AS HE SAID HE WAS "A LITTLE FISH." MINH HAS DECIDED THAT BUU WOULD BE RELEASED AFTER DUE PROCESS OF LAW, AND NOT BECAUSE THE AMERICANS HAVE SO REQUESTED.

[] COMMENT. MINH IS EXTREMELY UPSET OVER WHAT HE CLAIMED WAS LACK OF AMERICAN CONFIDENCE IN HIM.)

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5. THE BODIES OF NGO DINH DIEM AND NGO DINH NHU HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE TRAN TRUNG TUNG, WHOSE WIFE IS THE NIECE OF DIEM AND NHU. MAJOR GENERAL NGUYEN NGOC LE WAS SENT TO HUE TO ESCORT NGO DINH CAN, WHO IS UNDER ARREST, TO SAIGON ON 5 NOVEMBER ON A C-47 WITH FIGHTER ESCORT. CAN WILL BE INTERROGATED, THEN TRIED OR EXILED.

6. FIELD DISSEM. STATE (AMBASSADOR LODGE) USMACV (GENERAL HARKINS) CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.

END OF MESSAGE

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