

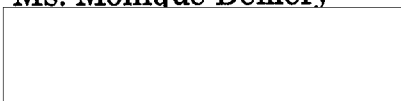
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

21 March 2005

Ms. Monique Demery



(b)(6)

Reference: F-2005-00723

Dear Ms. Demery:

We received your 27 January 2005 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for information or records on the following **South Vietnamese political personalities from 1945-63:**

**Mr. and Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu,
Ambassador and Mrs. Tran Van Chuong, and
Mr. Tran van Khiem.**

We assigned your request Reference Number F-2005-00723. Please reference this number when corresponding with our agency.

It is the CIA's policy to neither confirm nor deny the existence of records that might indicate a current or former operational or analytical interest in any particular foreign personality. This is so for the following reasons: The primary mission of the CIA is the conduct of foreign intelligence and foreign counterintelligence and the analysis thereof. Our records largely document the conduct of these operations and the information gleaned or otherwise acquired. The disclosure of individuals as sources (that is, cooperating individuals) or targets (that is, hostile individuals) would directly damage our national security by allowing targeted governments to take retaliatory action against US sources or to exploit the disclosure domestically (for instance, discourage other potential sources), diplomatically, or clandestinely (for instance, taking countermeasures or providing disinformation). Even if the subject of a FOIA request is not of intelligence interest, we must provide identical responses to all such requests to prevent our pattern of responses from leading to correct conjectures as to who is or is not of CIA intelligence interest. These concerns are not based on untested hypothesis; indeed, numerous federal courts have recognized that foreign intelligence services are "zealous ferrets" and that the FOIA does not require the United States to

lighten the task of hostile governments by providing them with documentary assistance from which to piece together the truth concerning our foreign intelligence activities.

However, we can sometimes provide requesters with overt or officially released records containing information on foreign nationals that is unrelated to any classified or covert interest. Examples in this regard could include records on individuals in the context of an election or their position on public policy matters. Consistent with our policies and with regard to your interest in Ngo Dinh Diem and Tran Van Chuong, we searched our database of officially released documents and were able to locate the enclosed 25 documents, totaling 124 pages.

Based on the information provided in your letter, we determined that your request falls into the "all other" fee category, which means that you would be required to pay charges which recover the cost of searching for and reproducing responsive records (if any) beyond the first 100 pages of reproduction and the first two hours of search time, which will be furnished without charge. Copying costs would be assessed at the rate of ten cents per page. Because fees are minimal, and as an act of administrative discretion, we determined that no fees will be charged for this request.

Please be aware the CIA is not authorized to release records originated by other Government agencies even if we were to locate any. If you have not already done so, you may also wish to contact the Department of State at the following address for the information regarding ambassadors:

Ms. Margaret P. Grafeld
Director, Office of IRM Programs and Services, SA-2
Department of State, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20522-6001

We hope you find the enclosed information useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Koch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Koch
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

(b)(3)
(b)(6)

IMS/IRRG/PIPD [redacted] /17 March 2005

Signature assigned by: [redacted]

(b)(3)
(b)(6)

Distribution:

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[redacted]

(b)(5)

FOIA [redacted] 00723 Demery GIF

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Enclosed documents: MORI 8023, 8305, 8583, 8707, 8708, 10512, 10513, 10514, 10558, 10571, 10572, 10577, 10588, 10599, 10769, 11800, 11958, 12007, 95375, 96537, 96538, 121813, 242381, 242384, 570761.

Notes:

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