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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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| SECRET <i>(When Filled In)</i> | CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS NO FOREIGN DISSEM NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY | <small>SEE SANITIZED VERSION NOV-82-56</small> |
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| COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM | REPORT NO. TDCS DB-3/656,935 |
| SUBJECT POSTPONEMENT OF HUYNH VAN LANG COUP IN HOPE OF IMMEDIATE REFORMS | DATE DISTR. 28 SEPTEMBER 1963 |
| DATE OF INFO. 26 SEPTEMBER 1963 | PRECEDENCE PRIORITY |
| PLACE & DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (26 SEPTEMBER 1963) | REFERENCES IN 28998 |
| | FIELD REPORT NO. FVS 9714 |

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

SOURCE

APPRAISAL: IT IS LIKELY THAT THE COUP ATTEMPT HAS BEEN POSTPONED; WHETHER OR NOT THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE POSTPONEMENT IS TRUE CANNOT BE JUDGED.

1. SUMMARY. HUYNH VAN LANG'S COUP GROUP DECIDED ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1963 TO POSTPONE ACTION UNTIL THE MCNAMARA/TAYLOR MISSION HAD DEPARTED, HOPING THAT PRESIDENT DIEM WOULD BE PERSUADED TO REFORM THE GOVERNMENT. SHOULD DIEM FAIL TO DO THIS, THE COUP ATTEMPT WOULD PROCEED.

2. ON 26 SEPTEMBER LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHAM NGOC THAO, STRATEGIC HAMLET INSPECTOR FOR NGO DINH NHU, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

A. THE COUP GROUP HEADED BY LANG HAD POSTPONED COUP ACTION UNTIL THE MCNAMARA/TAYLOR MISSION HAD DEPARTED, HOPING THAT THE VISIT WOULD CAUSE DIEM TO REMOVE NGO DINH NHU AND

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| SECRET | CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS NO FOREIGN DISSEM NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY | <small>GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification</small> |
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| STATE/INR | DIA | ARMY/ACSI | NAVY | AIR | JCS | SECDEF | NSA | NIC | OCI | ONE | OCR | EX |
| STATE/DIR | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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INSTITUTE REFORM MEASURES.

B. IF DIEM SHOULD TAKE THESE TWO STEPS, THE COUP GROUP, ALTHOUGH NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED, WOULD CONSIDER SUCH ACTION PREFERABLE TO BLOODSHED AND SCHISM IN THE ARMY WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM A COUP.

C. SHOULD DIEM FAIL TO TAKE THESE STEPS, THE COUP WILL BE ATTEMPTED.

D. THE COUP GROUP HAS BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS BECAUSE NHU HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTING MONEY AMONG HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS. (FIELD COMMENT. SEE FVS-9712 (TDCS-3/560,375) FOR INFORMATION FROM THE SAME SOURCE ON THIS.)

E. BRIGADIER GENERAL TRAN THIEN KHIEM, CHIEF OF STAFF, JOINT GENERAL STAFF, SEEMS DETERMINED TO PROCEED WITH A COUP WHEN HIS WIFE IS NOT IN SAIGON. COMMENT. THAO SAID THAT KHIEM'S WIFE WAS RUNNING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, THAT SHE WAS FULLY SATISFIED WITH HER PERSONAL SITUATION, AND THAT SHE EXERTED A CONSERVATIVE INFLUENCE ON KHIEM WHEN SHE WAS WITH HIM.)

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

END OF MESSAGE

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