

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY : NARA
RECORD NUMBER : 176-10036-10151
RECORD SERIES : National Security Files
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

ORIGINATOR : CIA
FROM :
TO :
TITLE : CIA Information Report
DATE : 10/3/1963
PAGES : 3
SUBJECTS :
DOCUMENT TYPE :
CLASSIFICATION :
RESTRICTIONS :
CURRENT STATUS :
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 9/10/2000
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : National Security Files, Box 200: Vietnam,9/22/63-10/6/63, CIA
Reports. Box 2

PRESERVATION COPY

IMMEDIATE

Frehman
RECEIVED
WHASA

16
EXEMPT
NLR-22-56

1963 OCT 3 17 23

SFI010

OO ESF

DE YEKADL 72915 03/1641Z OCT

O 031547Z ZYH

FM CIA

7487

Bundy

TO WHITE HOUSE SITROOM PASS EXCLUSIVE FOR BUNDY
DEPT STATE (CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER) PASS EXCLUSIVE
FOR RUSK, BALL, HARRIMAN AND HILSMAN
SSO ACSI DA (PASS EXCLUSIVE FOR MC NAMARA AND GILPATRIC.
PASS EXCLUSIVE FOR GENERAL TAYLOR AND GENERAL KRULAK)
ZEM

SECRET

SECRET EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING IS CAS SAIGON 1385

RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON AS IN 32061

1. ON 2 OCT 1963 LT COL CONEIN ACCIDENTALLY ENCOUNTERED MAJ GEN TRAN VAN DON AT TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT. DON STATED HE HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH CONEIN FOR SOME TIME. REQUESTED THAT CONEIN COME TO NHA TRANG ON NIGHT OF 2 OCT FOR PRIVATE DISCUSSION. CONEIN WAS NONCOMMITTAL IN HIS REPLY.
2. COL CONEIN'S VISITING NHA TRANG TO TALK WITH DON WAS APPROVED BY TRUEHEART.
3. TRUEHEART'S GUIDANCE TO CONEIN WAS THAT HE NEITHER TO ENCOURATE NOR DISCOURAGE ANY COUP THINKING OR ACTION, TO ELICIT INFORMATION ONLY AND NOT TO COMMIT THE USG TO ANY ACTION

4. CONEIN MET WITH DON IN NHA TRANG ON NIGHT OF 2 OCT FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR. NO OTHER PERSONS WERE PRESENT DURING THE MEETING. DON MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. DOUNG VAN MINH DESIRES TO SEE CONEIN FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATION.

B. MEETING WITH MINH WILL TAKE PLACE 0800 HOURS 5 OCT AT JOINT GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS, SAIGON.

C. AT THAT HOUR CONEIN IS TO PRESENT HIMSELF IN UNIFORM AT DON'S OFFICE. COVER TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WILL BE POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF UNITED STATES SPECIAL FORCES HEADQUARTERS. (COMMENT: THIS IS A COVER TOPIC ONLY SUGGESTED BY GEN DON. CAS SAIGON WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE DISCUSSION SUCH A MATTER SINCE THIS WOULD BE SOLELY WITHIN MACV PREROGATIVES.)

D. CONEIN WILL SPEAK TO MINH ALONE.

E. GEN TON THAT DINH HAS REALIZED HE WAS "PLAYED FOR A FOOL" DURING HIS TENURE AS MILITARY GOVERNOR OF SAIGON. FOR THIS REASON "MAY JOIN OUR SIDE."

F. GEN TRAN VAN KIM AND GEN PHAN XUAN CHIEU HAVE BEEN GIVEN STAFF POSITIONS UNDER GEN DON ON THE JGS.

G. THE GENERALS (SPECIFIC PERSONALITIES NOT IDENTIFIED) HAVE REQUESTED PRESIDENT DIEM TO ACCORD THEM POSITIONS OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE, MINISTER OF INTERIOR, MINISTER OF EDUCATION, MINISTER OF CIVIC ACTION, AND THE PREFECTOR OF THE POLICE FOR SAIGON/CHOLON. IN ADDITION, GENERALS ASKED PRESIDENT DIEM TO APPOINT A GENERAL OFFICER MILITARY GOVERNOR SAIGON/CHOLON TO INSURE DEFENSE OF AREA. GENERALS ARE CONVINCED DIEM HAS NO REPEAT NO INTENTION OF MAKING THESE APPOINTMENTS.

5. CONEIN ATTEMPTED TO ELICIT ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM DON WHO REFUSED ALL ATTEMPTS AT ELICITATION WITH STATEMENT "YOU MUST TALK TO MINH." DON DID VOLUNTEER, HOWEVER, THAT GENERALS "NOW HAVE A PLAN." DON WAS EMPHATIC WITH RESPECT TO THIS LAST STATEMENT.

6. DON ALSO STATED THAT TWO DAYS PRIOR TO GEN DINH'S FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE (29 AUG) VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED VISITED NGO DINH NHU, STATED THAT AMERICANS WERE CONTACTING VARIOUS VIETNAMESE IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE A COUP. THEREUPON NHU HAD CALLED IN DON AND DON WAS SHOWN LIST OF AMERICANS ENGAGED IN SUCH COUP PLOTS. DON STATED CONEIN'S NAME WAS NOT REPEAT NOT ON THIS LIST.

7. AMBASSADOR HAS APPROVED CONEIN'S CONTACT WITH DON AND MINH ON 5 OCTOBER.

SCP-1

3362

SECRET EXCLUSIVE