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TOP SECRET

SECTION TWO OF THREE

~~TOP SECRET~~ EYES ONLY

VIA CAS SAIGON 2063 FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE DTG 301030Z

TO SECSTATE WASH EYES ONLY FOR RUSK, HARRIMAN, BALL, HILSMAN, HUGHES
OSD EYES ONLY FOR MCNAMARA, GILPATRIC, TAYLOR, KRULAK, MR. WM. BUNDY
WHITE HOUSE/EYES ONLY MCGEORGE BUNDY

INFO HONOLULU FOR ADM FELT EYES ONLY

CIA/EYES ONLY MCCONE, CARTER, HELMS

REF: CAS WASHINGTON 79109

4. RE PARA 4 REF, WE EXPECT THAT CONEIN WILL MEET DON ON
THE NIGHT OF 30 OCT OR EARLY MORNING 31 OCT. WE AGREE WITH PARA 4
REF THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR DETAILS AND QUESTION DON
AS TO HIS ESTIMATE OF THE RELATIVE STRENGTHS OF OPPOSING FORCES.
WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD SHOW ANY SIGNS OF
ATTEMPTING TO DIRECT THIS AFFAIR OURSELVES OR OF GIVING THE
IMPRESSION OF SECOND THOUGHTS ON THIS VIETNAMESE INITIATION

IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL RESPOND SPECIFICALLY TO CAS WASHINGTON
79126. PLEASE NOTE THAT CAS SAIGON 2059 CORRECTS CAS SAIGON
2023 AND TWO REGIMENTS OF THE 7TH DIVISION ARE INCLUDED IN THE
COUP FORCES.

5. APPARENTLY PARA 5 REF OVERLOOKS CAS 1445, 5 OCT 1963
WHICH GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE FACE TO FACE MEETING OF GENERAL
"BIG MINH" AND CONEIN AT MINH'S INSTIGATION AND THROUGH THE SPECIFIC
ARRANGEMENT OF GEN DON. MINH SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED GEN DON AS
PARTICIPATING IN A PLAN TO CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT. PLEASE NOTE
THAT MINH'S REMARKS PARALLEL IN EVERY WAY THE LATER STATEMENTS OF
GEN DON. WE BELIEVE THAT THE LIMITATION OF CONTACT TO DON AND
CONEIN IS AN APPROPRIATE SECURITY MEASURE CONSONANT WITH OUR

URGING THAT THE SMALLEST NUMBER OF PERSONS BE AWARE OF THESE
DETAILS. 66

6. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WISE TO ASK THAT "BIG MINH" PASS HIS PLANS TO GEN STILWELL. THE VIETNAMESE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. MILITARY WHO LEAK TO THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM. I DO NOT DOUBT THAT THIS IS AN UNJUST SUSPICION BUT IT IS A FACT THAT THIS SUSPICION EXISTS AND THERE IS NO USE IN PRETENDING THAT IT DOES NOT.

7. I MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR FURNISHING THE BERTH EQUIPPED MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH I TRUST IS A JET. I INTEND TO TELL PAN AMERICAN THAT A JET HAS BEEN DIVERTED FOR MY USE AND THEREFOR I WILL NO LONGER NEED THEIR SERVICES. THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY LEAK TO THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE GVN MAY STUDY THIS MOVE WITH SOME SUSPICION. I WILL ANSWER ANY INQUIRIES ON THIS SCORE TO THE EFFECT THAT I AM MOST PLEASED BY THIS ATTENTION AND THAT THIS IS OBVIOUSLY DONE AS A MEASURE TO INSURE MY CONFORT AND SAVE MY TIME. TO ALLAY SUSPICIONS FURTHER, I WILL OFFER SPACE ON THE AIRCRAFT TO MACV FOR EMERGENCY LEAVE CASES, ETC, AND HANDLE THIS IN AS ROUTINE FASHION AS POSSIBLE. I WISH TO RESERVE COMMENT AS TO MY ACTUAL TIME OF DEPARTURE UNTIL I HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, HOPEFULLY TOMORROW.

8. YOUR PARA 7, SOMEWHAT PERPLEXES ME. IT DOES NOT SEEM SENSIBLE TO HAVE THE MILITARY IN CHARGE OF A MATTER WHICH IS SO PROFOUNDLY POLITICAL AS A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, I WOULD SAY TO DO THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE THE END OF ANY HOPE FOR A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT HERE. THIS IS SAID IMPERSONALLY AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, SINCE GEN HARKINS IS A SPLENDID GENERAL AND AN OLD FRINED OF MINE TO WHOM I WOULD GLADLY ENTRUST ANYTHING I HAVE. I ASSUME THAT THE EMBASSY AND MACV ARE ABLE TO HANDLE NORMAL ACTIVITIES UNDER A, THAT CAS CAN CONTINUE COUP CONTACTS UNDER B, AND AS REGARDS C, WE MUST SIMPLY DO THE VERY BEST WE CAN IN THE LIGHT OF EVENTS AFTER THE COUP HAS STARTED.

9. WE APPRECIATE THE STEPS TAKEN AS OUTLINED IN PARA 8.
HOWEVER, WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE GVN IS NOT TOTALLY INEPT IN ITS
FOREIGN SOUNDINGS AND THAT THESE MOVES SHOULD BE AS DISCREET AND
SECURITY CONSCIOUS AS POSSIBLE. I WOULD, OF COURSE, CALL FOR THESE
FORCES ONLY IN CASE OF EXTREME NECESSITY SINCE MY HOPE COINCIDES
WITH THE GENERALS THAT THIS WILL BE AN ALL VIETNAMESE AFFAIR.

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EO 1.3 ONLY