

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY : NARA
RECORD NUMBER : 176-10036-10178
RECORD SERIES : National Security Files
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

ORIGINATOR : DOS
FROM :
TO :
TITLE : Department of State INR Morning Briefing
DATE : 11/1/1963
PAGES : 2
SUBJECTS :
DOCUMENT TYPE :
CLASSIFICATION :
RESTRICTIONS :
CURRENT STATUS :
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 9/10/2000
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : National Security Files, Box 201: Vietnam 11/1/63-11/2/63, Memos
and Miscellaneous. Box 1

SANITIZED
40101-201-10-2-6

Secret

(Classification)

NSC - Mr. Felt

FORM DS-1118
6-10-60

SEE SANITIZED VERSION NWC-82-46

(Serialize if SECRET or higher.)

This document consists of 1 page.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IN THE MORNING BRIEFING

Number 9 of 11 copies, Series A

DATE

November 1, 1963

SUBJECT

South Vietnam: Situation Report on Coup Developments As of 4:00 pm. Page 1

SOURCE: CLASS: ITEM:

CIA Saigon 15
Flash/Critic
11/1/63

Secret

Reliable source reports that Vice President Tho has contacted Generals and is alive and safe.

Same source reports that following personnel selected for provisional government which is to hold power for three to five months:

- Prime Minister: Nguyen Ngoc Tho
- Vice Prime Minister: Pham Huy Quat and Tran Van Ly
- Minister of National Defense and Commander of General Staff: Gen. Tran Van Don
- Minister of Interior: Gen. Ton That Dinh
- Minister of Information: Gen. Tran Tu Oai
- Minister of Youth and National Education: Gen. Tran Van ("Little") Minh
- Foreign Minister: Vu Van Mau
- Minister of Public Works: Tran Le Quang
- Ambassador to US: Tran Van Chuong

Ministers of Finance, Economy, Agriculture, Justice, and Health are still to be chosen but will all be civilians.

There will be no president of the provisional government since the generals view Presidency as an elective office, whereas Prime Ministership is an appointive office. After 3 to 5 months free elections will be held for president.

Gen. "Big" Minh has several times emphasized that he desires no post whatsoever.

Same source reports that General Dinh is now at the Palace talking to the Commander of the Ranger Battalion who has joined the Presidential Guard. Object of talks is capitulation of Ranger Battalion and Presidential Guard.

Provisional Government will state its primary objective as the successful prosecution of the war against Viet Cong.

COMMENTS

CIA Saigon 16
Critic/Flash
11/1/63

Secret

Reliable source reports from Big Minh that following officers involved in coup:

(cont'd)

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT

RFE

BRIEFER

Thielbar

Secret

(Classification)

FORM DS-1110
3-10-60

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INR MORNING BRIEFING

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Number ___ of 11 copies, Series A

DATE
November 1, 1963

SUBJECT
South Vietnam: Situation Report on Coup Developments As of 4:00 pm. Page 2

SOURCE: CLASS: ITEM:

Generals:

- Big Minh
- Don
- Dinh
- Little Minh
- Le
- Khiem
- Xuan
- ~~Thien~~
- Kim
- Cai
- La
- Ngo
- Chieu
- Tam
- Khanh
- Tri
- Nghiem

Colonels:

- Lam Van Phat
- Do Mau
- Nguyen Huu Co
- Nguyen Van Chuan
- Nguyen Khuong
- Tran Vinh Huy
- Bui Huu Nhan
- Duong Ngoc Lam

Majors:

- Le Nguyen Khang
- Do Khac Mai
- Nguyen Cao Ky
- Nguyen Dinh Xuan
- Nguyen Van Thien
- Chuong Tan Cang
- Vinh Loc
- Nguyen Trung Truc

COMMENTS:

Same source reports that Vice President Tho is now at JGS. (Source knows him well by sight).
 Gia Long now under heavy attack. Several large explosions occurred between 3:15 and 3:25 ~~pm~~ am.

AP 60 Uncl.
11/1/63
Washington

Arthur Sylvester has announced the following:
 "As a precautionary measure and with approval of the President, Sec. Defense McNamara has directed the movement of U.S. military forces toward the area of South Vietnam."
 "The order went out through the Joint Chiefs of Staff to Adm. Felt i...to take the necessary action."
 "This order has been given should it be necessary to protect American lives in South Vietnam."
 Sylvester would not say which forces to be moved. Press speculates they would include 7th Fleet and units of the Air Force Transport Fleet based in Okinawa and the Philippines.

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