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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

S. Vietnam

34-31

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Action FE

Control: 4901 Rec'd: JULY 6, 1963 8:11 AM

Info SS G

FROM: SAIGON (AIRTEL) TO: SECRETARY OF STATE

SP ATDA

NO: 41, JULY 6, 5 PM

USIA

INR

RMR

TO: SECRETARY OF STATE
FROM: SAIGON (AIRTEL) TO: SECRETARY OF STATE
SUBJECT: (UNCLAS) REFERENCE TO REPORT FROM SAIGON ON JULY 5, 1963
ON JULY 5, 1963, SAIGON OFFICIALS ADVISED THAT PRESIDENT DIEM
HAD OPENED A MEETING AT 1:00 P.M. ON JULY 3, 1963, AND HE HAD
THE IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT DIEM'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
DIEM WAS OF SOME URGENCY, SINCE CHARGE HAD INSISTED ON SEEING
PRESIDENT ON URGENT MATTER. LUONG ASKED ME IF I WAS AWARE OF
SUBJECT OF CHARGE'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. I REPLIED IN
NEGATIVE.

MINISTER LUONG OPENED MEETING BY STATING HE HAD SEEN CHARGE
TRUEHEART AT 1:00 HOURS ON 3 JULY, AND HE HAD IMPRESSION
THAT TRUEHEART'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DIEM WAS OF SOME
URGENCY, SINCE CHARGE HAD INSISTED ON SEEING PRESIDENT ON URGENT
MATTER. LUONG ASKED ME IF I WAS AWARE OF SUBJECT OF CHARGE'S
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. I REPLIED IN NEGATIVE.

LUONG SAID THAT PRESIDENT DIEM WAS TO MAKE SPEECH IN NEAR
FUTURE EXPLAINING GVN-BUDDHIST SITUATION. IT WOULD BE MAJOR
SPEECH, PARTS OF WHICH HAD BEEN DRAFTED BY VICE-PRESIDENT AND
LUONG.

LUONG SAID HE HAD HEARD RUMORS VICE-PRESIDENT HAD RESIGNED EARLIER
IN WEEK. LUONG CATEGORICALLY DENIED THIS AND NOTED THAT MINISTER
THUAN HAD EXPLAINED THIS TO CHARGE. WHEN HE MENTIONED THUAN,
CHARGE TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD IT ON VERY GOOD AUTHORITY THAT THUAN WAS TO
LOSE HIS DEFENSE MINISTRY PORTFOLIO. LUONG AGAIN DENIED THAT
THIS WAS BEING CONSIDERED. HE CALLED TO MY ATTENTION CONVERSATION
WE HAD HAD IN EARLY APRIL WHEN SAME SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED.

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-2- 41, JULY 6, 5 PM, FROM SAIGON. DAVIS HAS BEEN DISREGARDED
DATE AND BEING CONSIDERED. HE OFFERED TO REVEAL INFORMATION
AT THAT TIME HE HAD SAID THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NOT MINISTERIAL
CHANGES UNTIL AFTER NATIONAL ELECTIONS. HE THEN SAID THAT IV
ALSO HAD HEARD THAT TUYEN WAS TO HEAD UP NEW DIRECTORY OR BUREAU
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN PRESIDENCY. LUONG SAID TUYEN DID HEAD
UP POLITICAL BUREAU OF PRESIDENCY.

LUONG SAID STORY ON VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER THUAN WAS
STARTED BY THE BUDDHISTS. RETURNING TO SUBJECT OF TUYEN,
LUONG SAID TUYEN HAS ANNOUNCED IN WL CIRCLES THAT HE NOT RPT
NOT ACCEPTABLE TO CAIRO AS VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR. THIS ACCORDING
TO LUONG IS ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE; TRUTH IS:

- A. TUYEN IS SCHEDULED TO GO TO CAIRO;
- B. UAR GOVERNMENT HAS AS YET NOT REPLIED TO GVN ON TUYEN ON
APPOINTMENT;
- C. TUYEN WEEK AGO PRESENTED FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH LIST OF
SEVERAL PERSONS HE PROPOSED AS CANDIDATES TO ACCOMPANY HIM
TO CAIRO.

BEGIN TEXT

ACCORDING LUONG, NEWSWEEK HAS PUBLISHED EXCERPTS OF REPUBLICAN
YOUTH'S "STUDY DOCUMENT NO. 3" ON BUDDHIST SITUATION. LUONG
WANTED ASSURE ME THAT DOCUMENT IN QUESTION WAS NOT SECRET
INSTRUCTIONS TO REPUBLICAN YOUTHS. HE SAID THAT NEITHER PRESIDENT
DIEM OR NHU HAVE EVER GIVEN SECRET INSTRUCTIONS TO REPUBLICAN
YOUTHS. WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED WAS THAT AFTER 16 JUNE ACCORDS
SIGNED, COUNSELLOR NHU HAD ISSUED PROCESS VERBAL TO REPUBLICAN
YOUTHS, WHICH WAS INTENDED FOR PURPOSE OF RECEIVING CRITIQUE
OF GVN'S ACTION. IT WAS, ACCORDING TO LUONG, NORMAL PROCEDURE
FOR "POLITICAL PARTIES" TO ISSUE PROCES VERBAL ON ANY ISSUE.
(COMMENT: REFERENCE TO REPUBLICAN YOUTH AS POLITICAL PARTY IS
INTERESTING). ACCORDING TO LUONG, THIS IS MEANS TO STIMULATE
PEOPLE AND MAKE THEM FEEL THAT THEY ARE PARTICIPATING IN AFFAIRS
OF THEIR NATION. LUONG HIMSELF SENT PROCES VERBAL TO ALL
PROVINCE CHIEFS -- HIS PURPOSE WAS TO GET "RICE ROOT" REACTION IN
PROVINCES ON GVN-BUDDHIST ACCORDS. MOST EXTREME OPINION
VOICED WAS THAT OF ONE PROVINCE CHIEF (UNNAMED) THAT GVN HAS
NO RPT NO RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE WITH ANY GROUP, AND THAT GVN
SHOULD HAVE TAKEN FIRM HAND WITH BUDDHISTS AND ORDERED THEM TO
COMPLY WITH GOVERNMENT EDICTS.

UNFORTUNATELY, LUONG CONTINUED, BUDDHISTS GOT HOLD OF PROCES
VERBAL OF 18 JUNE 963 AND PASSED COPY TO NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

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MCCABE, WHO

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-3- 41, JULY 6, 5 PM, FROM SAIGON

MCCABE, WHO SENT WHOLE THING OVER PRESS WIRE. THIS UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR IS BEING QUITE MISUNDERSTOOD BECAUSE, TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT, IT APPEARS THAT REPUBLICAN YOUTHS WERE BEING ASKED TO REVOLT AGAINST ACCORDS. THIS ALSO LUONG DENIED. ACCORDING TO LUONG, RESULT OF PROCES VERBALE TO REPUBLICAN YOUTHS REVEALED THAT RY RPT RY WERE NOT IN ACCORD GVN. THE OUTSTANDING CRITICISM OF RY WAS ASSURANCE THAT GVN WOULD CHANGE LAW NO. 10 BY CERTAIN DATE. ACCORDING TO RY CRITIQUE OF GVN, INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE HAD NO RIGHT TO ASSURE BUDDHISTS OF CHANGE OF LAW 10. LEGAL WAY TO CHANGE LAW 10 IS BY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE. SINCE THERE IS SEPARATION OF AUTHORITY IN GVN BETWEEN EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES, INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ASSUMED POWER OF LEGISLATIVE WHICH, ACCORDING TO RY THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO DO.

LUONG INDICATED THAT MAIN BUDDHISTS FEAR IS THAT RY WILL HOLD COUNTER MANIFESTATIONS TO BUDDHIST DEMONSTRATIONS. LUONG ASSURED ME NHU HAD NO RPT NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING RY TO TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST GVN-BUDDHIST ACCORDS, BUT WAS ONLY PERMITTING RY TO CRITIQUE GVN, WHICH IS "DEMOCARTIC PROCESS", AND TO STIMULATE THEIR THINKING. SINCE RY DOCUMENT HAD GOTTEN OUT OF CONTEXT, NHU ISSUED ON 5 JULY 1963 LETTER NO. 4. THIS LETTER EXPLAINS TO RY THAT NOW THAT THEY HAVE HAD THEIR CHANCE TO CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT THEY MUST REMAIN CALM. WHATEVER RY THINK THEY MUST KEEP IT TO THEMSELVES. RY MUST RESPECT LAW, REMAIN PASSIVE, NOT RESORT TO USE OF ARMS, AND SUPPORT GVN.

ACCORDING TO LUONG THERE IS MUCH POPULAR UNREST, WHICH HAS BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY BUDDHISTS. LATTER HAVE VC RPT VC BACKING AND THEY ARE NOW IN PROCESS OF BLACKMAILING GVN. DAILY, BONZES ARE CALLING WITH COMPLAINTS. THEY CALL MINISTERS, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLICE, COMPLAINING ABOUT IMAGINARY INJUSTICES, ARRESTS, DISCRIMINATION. ALMOST DAILY ONE OR MORE MINISTERS CALLED BY ONE OF SENIOR BONZES FROM HUE ASKING FOR REDRESS OF SOME FORM OR ANOTHER. EVERY ONE OF COMPLAINTS PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN GVN AND BONZES AND STILL THEY INSIST IN PURSUING THEIR HARASSING TACTICS. LUONG CONTINUOUSLY MAINTAINED

THAT VC

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... BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN GVN AND BOWEN AND BLIFF...
 -4- 41, JULY 6, 5 PM, FROM SAIGON
 ... THAT VC ARE INVOLVED. HE SAID THAT GVN MINISTERS, INCLUDING
 HIMSELF, ARE RECEIVING THREATENING LETTERS, MOST OF THEM
 ANONYMOUS. THESE LETTERS, SOME OF WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS
 INSULTING, THREATENED MINISTERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND INTIMATE
 FRIENDS. LUONG SAID HE REALLY HAS NOT HAD FAMILY LIFE FOR OVER
 TWO MONTHS ON ACCOUNT OF BUDDHISTS.

I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD ANY OTHER EXAMPLES OF UNREST. HE ANSWERED IN
 NEGATIVE. LUONG DID SAY THAT MILITARY IS NOT CAUSING ANY PROBLEMS.
 HE REITERATED THAT UNREST STEMS FROM VC, THE BUDDHISTS, AND
 DISSIDENT POLITICAL GROUPS. END TEXT.

WHO ISSUED ON 2000X 1003 LETTER NO. # THIS LETTER EXPLAINS
 COMMENT: RE FIRST PARA. IF LUONG SAW ME ON JULY 3, IT WAS AT A
 DISTANCE. IT IS INTERESTING TO SPECULATE WHETHER DIEM INFORMED
 HIM OF SUBJECT MY APPROACH.

GP-3
 ... INDICATED THAT MAIN BUDDHISTS LEAD IS THAT BY WILL HOLD
 TRUEHEART

FKG/22
 WHICH ACCORDING TO BY THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO DO
 INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ASSUMED POWER OF LEGISLATIVE
 OF AUTHORITY IN GVN BETWEEN EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL
 LAW TO IS BY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE. SINCE THERE IS SEPARATION
 NO RIGHT TO ASSUME BUDDHISTS OF CHANGE OF LAW TO LEGAL WAY TO CHANGE
 ACCORDING TO BY CRITIQUE OF GVN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE HAD
 WAS ASSURANCE THAT GVN WOULD CHANGE LAW NO. 10 BY CERTAIN DATE
 BUT BY WERE NOT IN ACCORD GVN. THE OUTSTANDING CRITICISM OF BY
 RESULT OF PROCES LEADERS TO REPUBLICAN YOUTH REVEALED THAT BY
 AGAINST ACCORDS. THIS ALSO GVN DENIED. ACCORDING TO GVN
 IT APPEARS THAT REPUBLICAN YOUTH WERE BEING ASKED TO REPORT
 AFFAIRS IS BEING BUTLE MISUNDERSTOOD BECAUSE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT
 MOORE WHO SENT WHOLE THING OVER PRESS WIRE. THIS UNOFFICIAL

-3- JULY 8 2 PM FROM SAIGON

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