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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM	**REPORT NO.** TDCS DB-3/657,066
SUBJECT SEVERAL OF DR. TRAN KIM TUYEN'S GROUP FAVOR THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT DIEM	**DATE DISTR.** 3 OCTOBER 1963
	PRECEDENCE PRIORITY
DATE OF INFO. 2 OCTOBER 1963	**REFERENCES** IN 31951
PLACE & DATE ACQ. SINGAPORE (2 OCTOBER 1963)	TDCSDB-3/656,932
APPRAISAL SEE BELOW	**FIELD REPORT NO.**

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

SOURCE

APPR: IT IS PROBABLE THAT THERE ARE KEY JUNIOR OFFICERS WITHIN THE TUYEN GROUP WHO ARE READY TO ACT AND THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT THE NGO FAMILY MUST BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE. WHETHER THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT CANNOT BE JUDGED.

1. SUMMARY. A MEMBER OF DR. TRAN KIM TUYEN'S GROUP STATED, ON 2 OCTOBER, THAT SEVERAL OF TUYEN'S POLITICAL FOLLOWERS, ESPECIALLY THE JUNIOR OFFICERS, BELIEVED THAT QUICK ACTION AND THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT DIEM, FOLLOWED BY PROMPT POLITICAL ACTION AND PROPAGANDA, WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE PRESENT IMPASSE IN SOUTH VIETNAM. DR. TUYEN, THE MEMBER QUICKLY ADDED, WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF ASSASSINATING THE PRESIDENT, HOWEVER.

2. ON 2 OCTOBER A MEMBER OF DR. TRAN KIM TUYEN'S GROUP SAID THAT HE IS PLANNING TO RETURN TO SOUTH VIETNAM IN ORDER TO MAKE SEVERAL CONTACTS AND CHECK ON REALIGNING RELATIONSHIPS FOR TUYEN. THE MEMBER THEN INDICATED

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GROUP 1
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STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC		OCI	ONE		DDI
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IN 31951

PAGE TWO

HIS CONVICTION THAT QUICK ACTION, COMMENCING WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF

PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM, WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE PRESENT IMPASSE. WHEN

ASKED IF SUCH ACTION MIGHT NOT MAKE A MARTYR OF THE PRESIDENT, CAUSE THE

TOTAL ALIENATION OF MANY NATIONALISTS, SET A PRECEDENT FOR FURTHER VIOLENCE,

AND DESTROY THE SYMBOL OF NATIONAL UNITY, THE MEMBER COUNTERED THAT PROMPT

POLITICAL ACTION AND A PROPAGANDA FOLLOW-UP WOULD OVERCOME ANY POPULAR POST

FACTO REPUGNANCE FOR THE LOSS OF A NATIONAL SYMBOL.

3. WHEN QUERIED AS TO WHETHER ALL OF TUYEN'S GROUP WAS ENTERTAINING

SUCH PLANNING, THE MEMBER QUICKLY SAID THAT TUYEN WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF

ASSASSINATING THE PRESIDENT, NOR WOULD THE MEMBER PERSONALLY THINK OF URGING

TUYEN'S FOLLOWERS TO DO SO WITHOUT TUYEN'S APPROVAL, BUT THAT SEVERAL IN THE

GROUP, AND ESPECIALLY THE JUNIOR OFFICERS, WERE CONVINCED THAT THIS WAS THE

ONLY WAY A COUP D'ETAT COULD SUCCEED.

4. IN COMMENTING ON FOREIGN REACTION TO SUCH A MOVE, THE MEMBER SAID:

"IF WE ARE TO SAVE VIETNAM, WE CANNOT WAIT FOR, NOR WORRY ABOUT, OFFICIAL

REACTIONS. IF WE DO NOT DO IT, SOMEONE ELSE WILL."

5. FIELD DISSEM. NONE.

END OF MESSAGE