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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Vietnam

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COUNTRY:	SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO. TDCS	-3/542,408
SUBJECT:	VIEWS OF NGO DINH NHU ON THE MANSFIELD REPORT, AND ON AMERICAN AID AND PRESENCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM	DATE DISTR.	2 APRIL 1963
DATE OF INFO:	LATE MARCH 1963	PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE
PLACE & DATE ACQ. APPRAISAL	VIETNAM, SAIGON (27 MARCH 1963) SEE BELOW	REFERENCES	IN
		FIELD REPORT NO.	FVS-8719

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

SOURCE AN AMERICAN OBSERVER (B); FROM NGO DINH NHU.

APPR. NGO DINH NHU PROBABLY EXPRESSED THE VIEWS STATED AND WAS AWARE THAT THEY WOULD REACH AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

1. IN LATE MARCH 1963 NGO DINH NHU SAID THAT HE DISAGREED WITH THE POSITIONS APPARENTLY TAKEN BY SENATOR MANSFIELD AND GENERAL CLAY WHICH SEEMED TO HIM TO IMPLY THE DESIRABILITY OF WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN AID AND PRESENCE FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES AND CONCENTRATION ON OTHER COUNTRIES. HE THOUGHT THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN AID AND PRESENCE FROM ANY COUNTRY IN WHICH THE COMMUNIST PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES CONSTITUTED A DANGER WOULD CREATE A VACUUM WHICH THE COMMUNISTS WOULD FILL. HE EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES THE DANGER OF COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, NHU STATED THAT HE RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR LESSENING THE BURDEN OF AID BY ACHIEVING A BETTER QUALITATIVE DISTRIBUTION AND

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GROUP 1
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STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC	AID	USIA	OCI	ONE	OCR	ORR	OBI	DD	D/DI
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EFFECT OF AID WITHIN ANY GIVEN COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT FOR THE PAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS, HE HAD COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT DIEM'S AND HIS OWN RECOGNITION THAT SOUTH VIETNAM MUST ACHIEVE BETTER QUALITATIVE UTILIZATION OF AMERICAN AID. HE REITERATED HIS CONCEPT OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY, HIS THEME THAT AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY SHOULD NOT BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO LIVING AT TOO ARTIFICIALLY HIGH A STANDARD BASED ON FOREIGN AID, AND HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT SOUTH VIETNAM IS MOVING TOWARD A BETTER "STRUCTURED" UTILIZATION OF AID AND IS CONCENTRATING IT AT THE GRASS ROOTS AMONG THE PEASANTRY. HE COMMENTED THAT URBAN INDUSTRIALIZATION AND OTHER FORMS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT DID NOT MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MASS OF PEOPLE AND PROVED TOO SLOW IN ACHIEVING AN IMPACT. HE REMARKED THAT HE CONTINUES TO SEARCH FOR WAYS TO DIMINISH THE LEVEL OF FOREIGN AID REQUIRED IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND BELIEVES ALSO THAT WAYS SHOULD BE FOUND TO DIMINISH THE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS DEPLOYED THERE. HOWEVER, NHU DID NOT IMPLY THAT ESSENTIAL AID OR ESSENTIAL AMERICAN PRESENCE SHOULD IN ANY WAY BE DISCARDED.

3. NHU SAID THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS TEND TO LOOK UPON THE PROBLEM OF UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS AN ISOLATED PROBLEM ACCENTUATED CRITICALLY BY THE COMMUNIST THREAT, AND TO CONSIDER AID AND AMERICAN PRESENCE MORE AS MEASURES IN THEMSELVES BY WHICH TO MEET THESE CRISES. ON THE OTHER HAND, NHU AND DIEM SEE AMERICAN AID AND PRESENCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM, ACCORDING TO NHU, GIVEN THE LARGE SCOPE OF THE PHENOMENA, AS A RAMIFYING "MEETING OF

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CIVILIZATIONS." NHU SAID THAT DIEM HAD USED THIS EXPRESSION RECENTLY IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AMERICAN REPORTERS TO MEAN THE MEETING OF WESTERN (AMERICAN) CIVILIZATION WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE CIVILIZATION. NHU REMARKED THAT THIS WAS A FERMENTING PROCESS AND COULD HAVE "EXPLOSIVE" CONSEQUENCES FOR SOUTH VIETNAM. NHU COMMENTED THAT THESE CONSEQUENCES OF THE "MEETING OF CIVILIZATIONS" WERE INHERENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE FOREIGN AID AND PERSONNEL WERE PRESENT TO A LARGE DEGREE. IN THIS CONNECTION, NHU SAID THAT COLONIALISM IN ITSELF HAD NOT BEEN ALL BAD. REFERRING TO VIETNAM'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE FRENCH, NHU SAID THAT THE WORST ASPECTS OF COLONIALISM HAD COME AT THE LOWER RANKS OR AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FRENCH COLONIAL STRUCTURE AND THAT THEY HAD RESULTED FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF FRENCH "ADVENTURERS," COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND LOWER FUNCTIONARIES. HE ADDED THAT THESE KINDS OF REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRESENT ALSO AMONG THE AMERICANS CURRENTLY IN SOUTH VIETNAM, WHILE, AT THE UPPER ECHELON OF AMERICAN PRESENCE, THERE WERE MANY REPRESENTATIVES WHOSE ROLE WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

4. NHU CONTINUED BY EMPHASIZING THAT HE IS NOT ANTI-AMERICAN AND THAT HE HOPED THAT HIS COMMENTS WOULD NOT BE MISCONSTRUED IN THAT SENSE. HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM HAS ATTEMPTED TO PROVIDE ITS PEOPLE WITH A CLEAR NATIONAL DOCTRINE AND THAT HE FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL. HE COMMENTED THAT IN HIS OPINION, THIS WAS NOT THE CASE TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO, BUT HAS BECOME TRUE GRADUALLY DURING THE

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRENT WAR, AND ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT AND PROGRESS OF THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM.

5. FIELD DISSEM. STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMACV MAAG AID USIA
2ND AIR DIVISION 9TH FIELD STATION CINCPAC ARFAC PACFLT PACAF.

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