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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY *Just Bundy*

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COUNTRY	SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO.	TDCS -3/544,940
SUBJECT	COMMENTS OF NGO DINH NHU ON DECREASING THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND ON AMERICAN AID	DATE DISTR.	24 APRIL 1963
DATE OF INFO.	12 APRIL 1963	PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	VIETNAM, SAIGON (12 APRIL 1963)	REFERENCES	IN 24209
APPRAISAL	SEE BELOW	FIELD REPORT NO.	FVS-8830

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

SOURCE AN AMERICAN OBSERVER (B); FROM NGO DINH NHU.
 APPR NHU PROBABLY HOLDS THE VIEWS STATED AND KNEW THEY WOULD REACH AMERICAN OFFICIALS; DIEM POSSIBLY HAS RECEIVED COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE AMERICAN PRESENCE FROM VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS AS STATED IN PARA. 3.

1. SUMMARY. NGO DINH NHU STATED ON 12 APRIL 1963 THAT HE FAVORS A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND SOME REVISION IN THE AID PROGRAM; AND, THAT PRESIDENT DIEM HAS RECEIVED COMPLAINTS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HIS OFFICIALS AND THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS.

2. NGO DINH NHU SAID ON 12 APRIL 1963 THAT THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM SHOULD BE REDUCED BY ANYWHERE FROM 500 TO 3,000 OR 4,000. WHEN THE AMERICANS FIRST ARRIVED, NHU COMMENTED, THEY WERE HIGHLY RESPECTED BECAUSE THEY WERE VERY HARD-WORKING, DISCIPLINED, AND WITHOUT RANCOR AMONG THEMSELVES OR TOWARD OTHER PERSONS; HOWEVER, THE PROCESS OF DISCIPLINE HAS BROKEN DOWN WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME AND THE INCREASED NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

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GROUP 1
 Excluded from automatic
 downgrading and
 declassification

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INITIALLY, THE INFLUX OF AMERICANS AND THEIR STATIONING IN THE PROVINCES WAS WELCOMED, WITH THE THOUGHT THAT AMERICANS THUS LOCATED WOULD COME TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING THE VIETNAMESE, THEREBY ENABLING THEM TO INTERPRET VIETNAMESE PROBLEMS SYMPATHETICALLY AND WITH MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION. THIS HAS NOT PROVED TO BE THE CASE IN ALL INSTANCES.

3. PRESIDENT DIEM HAS RECEIVED A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND STATEMENTS OF IRRITATION FROM HIS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CHIEFS ABOUT PROBLEMS OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS. AMONG OFFICIALS COMPLAINING WAS MAJOR GENERAL TON THAT DINH, COMMANDING GENERAL, II CORPS, WHO COMMENTED THAT THERE WERE TOO MANY AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. COMPLAINTS HAVE ALSO COME IN FROM THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF. NHU SAID THAT ONE ADVANTAGE OF THE AMERICAN PRESENCE AT ALL ECHELONS WAS TO HELP KEEP VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS HONEST AND TO STIMULATE THEM INTO BETTER PERFORMANCE, AS VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS DID NOT WANT TO LOOK BAD IN THE EYES OF FOREIGN OFFICERS. THE VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS WERE AT A DISADVANTAGE WITH RESPECT TO THEIR AMERICAN OPPOSITE NUMBERS, BECAUSE THE AMERICANS CONTROLLED THE MEANS, I.E., THE FUNDS AND GOODS, AND THIS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SENSE OF INADEQUACY AND INFERIORITY ON THE PART OF VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS.

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4. COMMENTING ON U.S. AID, NHU SAID THAT SOME ECONOMIC AID SHOULD BE AUGMENTED, SOME AID SHOULD BE PROGRAMMED FOR EVENTUAL ELIMINATION, SOME FORMS OF AID SHOULD BE PROGRAMMED FOR ELIMINATION SOMEWHAT SOONER, AND SOME COULD BE ELIMINATED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

5. HEADQUARTERS COMMENT. TDCS-3/544,531 (FVS-8804) REPORTED THAT AT THE 5 APRIL MEETING OF THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC HAMLETS, NHU STATED THAT AMERICAN AID SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF PRIORITY: FIRST, AID WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) MUST CONTINUE TO RECEIVE INDEFINITELY, SPECIFICALLY THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION, IN WHICH CATEGORY THE GVN WOULD SEEK NEITHER A REDUCTION NOR AN INCREASE; SECOND, AID WHICH CAN BE EVENTUALLY PHASED OUT; THIRD, AID WHICH CAN BE TERMINATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE; AND, FOURTH, AID WHICH CAN BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY.

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

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