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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

S. Vietnam

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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

COUNTRY	SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO.	TDCS -3/539,433
SUBJECT	VIEWS OF NGO DINH NHU ON THE WAR, AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, AND CRITICS OF THE DIEM REGIME	DATE DISTR.	6 MARCH 1963
DATE OF INFO.	FEBRUARY 1963	PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	VIETNAM, SAIGON (27 FEBRUARY 1963)	REFERENCES	IN FILE
APPRAISAL	SEE BELOW	FIELD REPORT NO.	FVS-8566, FVS-8568

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

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

APPR. IT IS PROBABLY TRUE THAT NGO DINH NHU MADE THE STATEMENTS AS QUOTED, AND THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THEY WOULD REACH AMERICAN OFFICIALS; THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, IS APPRAISED AS POSSIBLY TRUE.

1. ON 27 FEBRUARY 1963 NGO DINH NHU SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM BY JULY 1963. HE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS (VC) WOULD MAKE A VIGOROUS EFFORT TO BE SUPERIOR TO THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) BY MID-1963, AND THEREFORE COULD BE EXPECTED TO STRIKE IN INCREASINGLY LARGER FORMATIONS. NHU CLAIMED THAT THE GVN HAD TO UNDERTAKE STRONG COUNTERMEASURES TO LESSEN THE IMPACT OF THE VC ACTIONS, AND TO DEFINE MORE CLEARLY THE TREND OF THE WAR IN FAVOR OF THE GVN.

2. NHU ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS, AND THE SCOPE OF AMERICAN AID, IN SOUTH VIETNAM SHOULD BE REDUCED. NHU STATED THAT THE NUMBER

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACST	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC	AID	USIA	OCI	ONE	OCR	ORR	OBI	OO	DDI
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OF AMERICANS CONSTITUTED A VC PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE, BUT WAS INSUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME THE DISADVANTAGES AND VULNERABILITIES, AND THAT ALL AMERICANS NOT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN. NHU FURTHER STATED THAT THE GVN SHOULD SEEK MEANS OF REDUCING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SINCE SOUTH VIETNAM MUST ACHIEVE AS MUCH SELF-SUFFICIENCY AS POSSIBLE.

3. NHU SAID THAT HE HAD NO RESPECT FOR THE CRITICS OF THE REGIME, BOTH IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND ABROAD, WHO, WHILE PRETENDING TO BE INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF THE COUNTRY, ACTUALLY ONLY WANTED TO ADVANCE THEIR OWN PERSONAL POWER AND SELF-INTEREST. NHU STATED THAT NEITHER HE, NOR OTHER VIETNAMESE LEADERS, CONSIDERED THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A TEMPORARY PRODUCT OF HISTORICAL NECESSITY, AN IDEAL SITUATION.

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

END OF MESSAGE