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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

S. Vietnam

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CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

(When Filled In)
DOWNGRADED PER N44-89-15 9/89

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM REPORT NO. TDCS-3/552,822

SUBJECT MILITARY PLAN FOR OVERTHROW OF THE DIEM REGIME DATE DISTR. 8 JULY 1963

PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

DATE OF INFO. 8 JULY 1963 REFERENCES IN 74898

PLACE AND DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (8 JULY 1963) TDCSDB-3/655,403

APPRAISAL 3 FIELD REPORT NO. FVS 9263

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

SOURCE AN AMERICAN OBSERVER (B) FROM DONON

REVEALING THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL DISRUPT THE

DON HAD LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER GROUPS

FROM SAIGON

1. MAJOR GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, COMMANDER OF THE THIRD CORPS AREA, SAIGON DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER THEY WOULD BE KILLED OR WHETHER EXISTED ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, SAID ON 8 JULY 1963 THAT THERE WAS A MILITARY PLAN FOR AN OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT EXCEPT FOR ONE OR TWO GENERAL OFFICERS, ALL WERE IN AGREEMENT. THE PLAN CONSISTS OF A MILITARY RULER ADVISED BY A COMMITTEE OF THREE. THE NOMINAL LEADER WOULD BE UNABLE TO TAKE ANY ACTION WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE.

2. DON DID NOT SPECIFY THE TIMING OF THE ACTION BUT SAID THAT HE DID NOT PLAN TO LEAVE THE SAIGON AREA FOR THE NEXT TEN DAYS, THAT THE OPERATION HAD DEVISED TO USE THE BEST TALENTS OF

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CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC	AID	USIA	OCI	ONE	OCR	ORR	OBI	OO	EXG
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IDCS-3/552,822

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3. DON SAID THAT THE REASON FOR THE MILITARY TAKEOVER WAS

THAT PRESIDENT DIEM HAD FAILED TO ACT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF VIETNAM ON THE OCCASION OF THE 8 MAY BUDDHIST INCIDENT IN HUE.

DON DID NOT SPECIFY THE LINGUO QUINQUEMODO BUT SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE ADMITTED ITS MISTAKE AND MADE AMENDS TO THE PEOPLE INVOLVED; THE GOVERNMENT UNFORTUNATELY FAILED TO DO THIS AND PERMITTED THE INCIDENT TO BECOME A NATIONAL ISSUE. THE MILITARY MUST ACT IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE VIET CONG FROM TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE CONTINUING BUDDHIST PROBLEM.

4. DON EMPHASIZED THAT THE ENTIRE NGO FAMILY MUST BE ELIMINATED BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER THEY WOULD BE KILLED OR MERELY EXILED FROM VIETNAM.

5. DON ADMITTED KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER GROUPS PLANNING THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT, BUT DISMISSED TRAN

KIM TUYEN'S GROUP AS A "YOUNG" GROUP.

6. ACCORDING TO DON, ONE PROBLEM INVOLVES THE JUNIOR OFFICERS,

AMONG WHOM THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF DISSATISFACTION, AND ONE OF

THE SEVERAL STAGES OF THE MILITARY PLAN INCLUDES MEANS OF SATISFYING THIS GROUP OF OFFICERS.

7. WHEN THE MILITARY GROUP ASSUMES POWER OVER THE GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY AND WILL BE HELD FROM THREE TO SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING THE TAKEOVER OF POWER.

8. FIELD DISSEM. STATE (CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ONLY), USMACV

(GENERAL HARKINS ONLY), C INCPAC, CFLT, ARPAC, PACAF. END OF MESSAGE

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