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FROM: SAIGON

TO: Secretary of State

13: 620, SEPTEMBER 16, 6 PM (SECT)

SENT DEPARTMENT 620; REPEATED INFORM

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

OUR 538 AND 539.

[AS INDICATED OUR 538 AND 539 DIEM REGIME CONFRONTED BY TWO SEPARATE BUT RELATED DANGERS. DANGER FROM DEMONSTRATIONS OR COUP ATTEMPT IN SAIGON COULD OCCUR EARLIER; LIKELY TO BE PREDOMINANTLY NON-COMMUNISTIC IN ORIGIN BUT COMMUNISTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO ENDEAVOR INFILTRATE AND EXPLOIT ANY SUCH ATTEMPT. EVEN MORE SERIOUS DANGER IS GRADUAL VIET CONG EXTENSION OF CONTROL OVER COUNTRYSIDE WHICH, IF CURRENT COMMUNIST PROGRESS CONTINUES, WOULD MEAN LOSS FREE VIET-NAM TO COMMUNISTS. THESE TWO DANGERS ARE RELATED BECAUSE COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN RURAL AREAS EMBOLDEN THEM TO EXTEND THEIR ACTIVITIES TO SAIGON AND BECAUSE NON-COMMUNIST TEMPTATION TO ENGAGE IN DEMONSTRATIONS OR COUP IS PARTLY MOTIVATED BY SINCERE DESIRE PREVENT COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER IN VIET-NAM.

ESSENTIALLY TWO SETS OF MEASURES REQUIRED TO MEET THESE TWO DANGERS. FOR SAIGON DANGER ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASURES REQUIRED. FOR COUNTRYSIDE DANGER SECURITY MEASURES AS WELL AS POLITICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC MEASURES NEEDED. HOWEVER BOTH SETS MEASURES SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY AND TO SOME EXTENT INDIVIDUAL STEPS WILL BE AIMED AT BOTH DANGERS.

SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN OUR 539 AND OTHER MESSAGES, INCLUDING FORMATION INTERNAL SECURITY COUNCIL,

CENTRALIZED INTELLIGENCE,

SECRET

Classification

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