

## TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

## CENTRAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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BACKGROUND USE ONLY

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT NO. TDCS DB-3/656,842

SUBJECT 1. NGO DINH NHU INTENTION TO DEAL WITH VC

DATE DISTR. 24 SEPTEMBER 1963

2. ATTEMPTS OF PHAM NGOC THAO TO ARRANGE VC AIR FORCE SUPPORT FOR A COUP D'ETAT

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO 9-20 SEPTEMBER 1963

REFERENCES IN 26062

PLACE &amp; DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (22 SEPTEMBER 1963)

APPRAISAL SEE BELOW

FIELD REPORT NO. FVS 9684

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

SOURCE A FIELD GRADE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE OFFICER (F).

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED THAT HE HAD BEEN "CONSIDERING DEALING WITH" THE VC. IT IS PROBABLY TRUE THAT THAO HAS PLANNED A COUP AND HAS SOUGHT VNAF SUPPORT AS REPORTED. THE SUBSTANCE OF THAO'S TALKS WITH DIEM AND NHU CONCERNING NHU'S CONTACTS WITH THE VIET CONG AND NHU'S PLANS FOR MAJOR CHANGES IN THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMY CANNOT BE ACCURATELY JUDGED. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT NHU WOULD MAKE A DEAL WITH THE COMMUNISTS ALTHOUGH THAO IS APPARENTLY CONVINCED THAT NHU IS CONSIDERING SUCH ACTION. THIS IS NOT TRUE THAT AMBASSADOR LODGE TALKED WITH THAO.

1. SUMMARY. ON 20 SEPTEMBER 1963 LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHAM NGOC THAO, ASSIGNED TO THE PRESIDENCY AS AN INSPECTOR FOR THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM, SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED SEPARATELY WITH PRESIDENT DIEM AND NGO DINH NHU ABOUT NHU'S CONTACTS WITH THE VIET CONG (VC) AND THAT NHU HAD ADMITTED THAT HE WAS "CONSIDERING DEALING WITH" THE COMMUNISTS. THAO CLAIMED THAT NHU WAS PLANNING MAJOR CHANGES TO MAKE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMY MORE SIMILAR TO THE ECONOMIES OF COMMUNIST NATIONS. THAO HAS SOLICITED VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE (VNAF) SUPPORT FOR A COUP D'ETAT AGAINST THE DIEM REGIME.

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