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IDENTIFICATION FORM**

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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**SEE SANITIZED VERSION
NLK-81-269, NLK-89-15+
DOWNGRADED**SECRET**

CLASSIFICATION AND DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY

COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM REPORT NO. C TDCS DB-3/655,517

SUBJECT: COUP D'ETAT PLAN OF NGO DINH NHU ON THE DATE DISTR: 12 JULY 1963

PRECEDENCE/PRIORITY: RUMD

DATE OF INFO: 11-12 JULY 1963 REFERENCES: 78592

PLACE & DATE ACQ: VIETNAM, SAIGON (12 JULY 1963)

APPRAISAL: SEE BELOW FIELD REPORT NO. FVS 9305

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

SOURCE: A GENERAL OFFICER (B) WHO EITHER ATTENDED THE MEETING OR WHO ACQUIRED THE INFORMATION FROM AN OFFICER WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING.

APPRAISAL: NGO DINH NHU IS PROBABLY PLANNING A COUP; HOWEVER, THE TIMING OF THE COUP ATTEMPT AND THE GENERALS WHO ARE SPECIFICALLY INVOLVED ARE UNKNOWN.

ON A CHANCE FOR SUCCESS, THE VIETNAM GOVT WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO REVERSE

DECISION SUMMARY: NGO DINH NHU PROPOSED TO ARMY GENERAL OFFICERS

ON 11 JULY 1963 THAT THEY STAGE A COUP D'ETAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

POSSIBLY THIS COUP MUST BE STAGED OVERNIGHT AND THE ARMY SHOULD

SHOULD TURN OVER CONTROL TO CIVILIANSE ON THE NEXT DAY.

NGO DINH NHU IS A GROUP OF GENERAL OFFICERS CONVINCED

JULY 1963 THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING NO PROGRESS IN THE WAR

AGAINST THE VC CONG OR IN OTHER PROGRAMS AND THAT THE GENERAL

OFFICERS MUST PROVIDE THE ACTION REQUIRED. THE GENERAL OFFICERS

HAVE BEEN CONTINUALLY HUMILIATED IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE AND IN

ORDER TO REGAIN POPULAR RESPECT THEY MUST ENGINEER A COUP D'ETAT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC OCL ONE OCN L

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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE TO: D JNSA (PROD NO)

STATE (RCJ) (FOR HUGHES)

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OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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NHU SAID THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT THE COUP IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY.

NHU SAID THAT THE GENERAL OFFICERS MUST SUPPORT HIM.

HE SAID NHU SAID THAT HE WAS NOT IN ACCORD WITH THE PRESIDENT

OR WITH THE ADMINISTRATION IN GENERAL. ALTHOUGH MANY PROBLEMS

HAVE BEEN HANDED TO HIM, HE HAS HAD NO REAL POWER TO FORCE THE

PRESIDENT OR OTHERS TO MAKE DECISIONS OR TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION.

ONLY WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, IN FACT, HAS HE HAD ANY OFFICIAL

POSITION. HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM.

HE SAID NHU SAID THAT THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR WOULD

BRING ABOUT CHANGES AND THAT FAST ACTION WAS NECESSARY. IMMEDIATE

DECISIONS MUST BE REACHED IF THE COUP IS TO OCCUR. THIS WAS THE

ONLY CHANCE FOR SUCCESS. THE ARMY MUST SEIZE THE TROUBLE-MAKERS

FOR EXAMPLE, THE BUDDHIST MOVEMENT MUST BE QUELLED. NHU QUALIFIED

THIS STATEMENT BY ADDING THAT HE DID NOT MEAN THE BUDDHISTS PER SE

BUT THE FIVE RINGLEADERS, WHO WERE TO BE BLAMED BECAUSE THEY HAD USED

THEIR RELIGION TO FURTHER THEIR OWN AMBITIONS AND DESIGNS.

5. NHU CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT THE COUP MUST BE STAGED

OVERNIGHT; IT MUST BE LIGHTNING FAST AND PROBABLY ALL THAT WOULD

BE NEEDED WOULD BE A SHOW OF FORCE. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE

GENERAL OFFICERS MUST TURN THE GOVERNMENT OVER TO CIVILIANS

CONTROL. IN RESPONSE TO A STATEMENT FROM MAJOR GENERAL NGUYEN

NGOC LE, CHIEF OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, THAT SUCH AN ACTION REQUIRED

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MAJOR DECISIONS AND A PLAN, NHU SAID THAT HE AND HIS WIFE AND THE GENERAL OFFICERS WOULD HAVE THE REQUIRED PLAN. NHU COMMENTED THAT HE REALIZED THAT HIS WIFE WAS NOT LIKED BY MANY PEOPLE BUT THAT SHE HAD TRIED TO HELP IN THE FIGHT FOR VIETNAM AND THAT SHE HERSELF REALIZED THAT SHE HAD MANY SHORTCOMINGS.

6. GENERAL LE THEN SAID TO NHU: "YOU SAY THAT YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH THE GOVERNMENT BUT THE PEOPLE SAY THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED WITH ALL DECISIONS MADE". NHU REPEATED HIS COMMENTS ON LACK OF POWER, FAILURE TO HAVE HIS ADVICE ACCEPTED, AND HIS LACK OF OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT.

7. GENERAL LE COMMENTED ON 12 JULY THAT ALTHOUGH NHU MIGHT BE WILLING TO OVERTHROW THE DIEM GOVERNMENT, LE THOUGHT THAT THEY SHOULD PROCEED WITHOUT NHU, ADDING THAT ALL THAT THE NHUS WANTED TO DO WAS TO SAVE THEMSELVES. (SOURCE COMMENT: V. ALL OF THE NHU'S CHILDREN HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO SAIGON AND WERE UNDER HEAVY GUARD. THE NHUS ALSO HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN.)

8. BRIGADIER GENERAL PHAM XUAN CHIEU SAID ON 12 JULY THAT ANY COUP D'ETAT ACTION MUST BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY AND THAT VALUABLE GENERAL OFFICERS SHOULD COOPERATE.

9. COLONEL LE QUAN VIEN SAID ON 12 JULY THAT HE HAD NOT ATTENDED THE 11 JULY MEETING BUT WAS AWARE THAT SOMETHING WAS

GOING ON, ADDING THAT NHU AGREED WITH DIEM THAT SOME CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE		IN 182AS
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ATTENDED THE 1477 MEETING ON 1477. SHE BE MADE BEFORE AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE LODGE ARRIVED; NHU, HOWEVER, COLONEL FE COVA AREA. SHE WANTED TO GO FURTHER AND HAVE A COUP D'ETAT WITHOUT DELAY. VIEN SAID THAT THE FOLLOWING GENERAL OFFICERS WERE LEADERS IN THE COUP PLANNING GROUP: BRIGADIER GENERAL TON THAT DINH, COMMANDING BRIGADIER GENERAL BACH VAN, COMMANDER, IV CORPS; GENERAL, III CORPS; COLONEL HUYNH VAN CAO, COMMANDER, IV CORPS; BRIGADIER GENERAL NGUYEN VAN LA, COMMANDER, CAPITAL AREA; AND BRIGADIER GENERAL NGUYEN KHANH, COMMANDING GENERAL, I CORPS. VIEN MENTIONED ANOTHER GROUP THAT WOULD SUPPORT A COUP PLACING VICE PRESIDENT THO IN TEMPORARY CONTROL AS INCLUDING MAJOR GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH, MILITARY ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT; BRIGADIER GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, COMMANDER OF THE ARMY; AND TWO OTHERS. SHE LACK OF OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT. FIELD DISSEM. STATE (AMBASSADOR), USMACV (GENERAL HARKINS), ON EACH OF THESE. SHE WANTED TO HAVE HIS VOICE ACCEPTED AND HIS CONCERNED WITH ALL DECISIONS MADE. SHE RESENTED HIS COMMENTS ABOUT WITH THE GOVERNMENT BUT THE PEOPLE SAY THAT YOU ARE

GENERAL FE THEN SAID TO NHU: YOU SAY THAT YOU DO NOT SHE HERSELF REALIZED THAT SHE HAD MANY SHORTCOMINGS THAT SHE HAD INTEND TO HELP IN THE FIGHT FOR A BETTER AND THAT THAT HE REALIZED THAT HIS MILE WAS NOT TAKED BY MANY PEOPLE BUT THE GENERAL OFFICERS WOULD HAVE THE REPUTED BEAM. SHE COMMENTED ABOUT DECISIONS AND A FEW. SHE SAID THAT HE WAS HIS MILE AND

END OF MESSAGE		Level 3
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