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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

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FILE

COUNTRY	CAMBODIA/SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO.	TDCS -3/499,631
SUBJECT	APPEAL TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE REBEL OFFICERS IN PHNOM PENH	DATE DISTR.	24 JANUARY 1962
DATE OF INFO.	20 JANUARY 1962	PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	CAMBODIA, PHNOM PENH (20 JANUARY 1962)	REFERENCES	IN -15274
APPRAISAL	2	FIELD REPORT NO.	FDP 1560

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

SOURCE AN AMERICAN OBSERVER (B); FROM MAJOR PHAM VAN LIEU.

1. ON 20 JANUARY 1962 MAJOR PHAM VAN LIEU, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN) MARINE CORPS AND MEMBER OF A GROUP OF SVN REBEL OFFICERS IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY BY THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT, PRESENTED A PROPOSAL FROM HIS GROUP TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY WITH A COVER LETTER TO AMBASSADOR TRIMBLE. THIS PROPOSAL SIGNED BY THEIR LEADER COLONEL NGUYEN CHANH THAI AND OTHER OFFICERS IN THE GROUP, CONTAINED A LIST OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE DIEM GOVERNMENT'S CORRUPT AND INEFFICIENT METHODS OF OPPOSING THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS (VC). IT SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY REAPPRAISE THE US POLICY TOWARD THE DIEM GOVERNMENT AND UNSEAT AND REPLACE IT WITH A GOVERNMENT TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SVN PEOPLE. THE PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED IN TWO COPIES, EACH ONE HAVING ONE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND A VIETNAMESE

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VERSION.

MAJOR LIEU TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT "COMPETENT CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES" TO RELEASE HIS GROUP FROM CUSTODY BY THE END OF JANUARY. HE SAID HAD APPROVED, AND THAT A CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT SECURITY SERVICE WAS DOCUMENTATION FOR THE GROUP. WHEN ASKED WHAT THEIR PLANS WERE AFTER RELEASED, MAJOR LIEU SAID THAT THEY WERE STILL HOPING FOR ASYLUM IN THE AND WOULD AT LEAST LIKE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH US EMBASSY OFFICERS. NOTHING COULD BE DONE TO REMEDY THE SITUATION IN SVN UNTIL DIEM WAS THEY WOULD FIGHT DIEM FIRST AND THE VC SECOND.

COMMENT. SEE CS-3/486,609 AND FDP 1168/TDCS-3/473,682

LIEU SAID THAT HIS GROUP WAS CONSIDERING JOINING THE SOUTH

DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, CINCPAC, PACFLT, ARPAC, PACAF.

END OF MESSAGE