

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY : NARA
RECORD NUMBER : 176-10036-10117
RECORD SERIES : National Security Files
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

ORIGINATOR : CIA
FROM :
TO :
TITLE : CIA Information Telegram
DATE : 7/18/1963
PAGES : 4
SUBJECTS :
DOCUMENT TYPE :
CLASSIFICATION :
RESTRICTIONS :
CURRENT STATUS :
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 9/10/2000
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : National Security Files, Box 198: Vietnam, 7/1/1963-7/20/63. Box 2

INFORMATION REPORT

NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT NO. TDCS DB-3/655,605

MAJOR GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH COMMENTS ON
THE CURRENT SITUATION AND ON THE NEED FOR
A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM

DATE DISTR. 18 JULY 1963

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

JULY 1963 COMMENTS THIS IS THE REFERENCES LIKE MINH HIN 82003

PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

VIETNAM, SAIGON (17 JULY 1963)

APPRAISAL

SEE BELOW

FIELD REPORT NO. FVS-9322

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

SOURCE AN AMERICAN OBSERVER (B); FROM A UNITED STATES ARMY FIELD-GRADE OFFICER; FROM GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH.

APPR GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH PROBABLY HOLDS THESE VIEWS AND FEELS THAT THE
IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN DISGRUNTLED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM SINCE 1960, AND
EVEN THOUGH HE HAS NOT SO EXPRESSED HIMSELF PREVIOUSLY TO SOURCE (SEE PARA. 2.B).

1. SUMMARY. ON 16 JULY 1963 MAJOR GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH, HVO AND THE CVO DVI WERE VET SIBONCES THAT THE BODHI 1212. THEY MILITARY ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT DIEM, CRITICIZED THE PRESIDENT, SAID MILLIONS DIEM LONG WITH ON IS THAT THAT THE DINH XUYEN THE HOV THAT HE LACKED THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, AND ADVOCATED A CHANGE IN THE REGIME, BUT ASSERTED THAT NGO DINH NHU COULD NOT TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO SAID THAT BRIGADIER GENERAL DO CAO TRI WOULD REMAIN IN COMMAND OF THE 1ST DIVISION.

OBSERVING UNDER A MANDATE FROM HEAVEN

2. GENERAL MINH MADE THE FOLLOWING

A. PRESIDENT DIEM HAS CHANGED

LONGER POSSIBLE TO REASON WITH HIM. IN
SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AND WAS VERY POPULAR

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

STA

DIA ARMY/ACSI

JES

NSA NIG

AID USIA

OGI

E

OGR

ORR

9

EP

(19)

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD

TDCSDB-3/655,605

IN 82003

PAGE 2

BACKGROUND USE ONLY

IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER AT THAT TIME TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE

PEASANTS FOR THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEN HE BEGAN
SCREENING HIMSELF IN AND BY 1959 HE HAD LOST COMPLETE TOUCH WITH THE
PEOPLE. THAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE TIME TO HAVE CHANGED THE GOVERNMENT.

AFTER 1960 DIEM CHANGED COMPLETELY, BECOMING CONVINCED THAT HE WAS
OPERATING UNDER A MANDATE FROM HEAVEN. THIS WAS APPARENT IN HIS

REMARKS ON 7 JULY WHEN HE SAID THAT THE COUNTRY WAS GUIDED BY

"INTUITIVE WISDOM."

THE BUDDHIST ISSUE IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF DIEM'S IRRATIONAL

ATTITUDE. DIEM TOLD MINH ON 13 JULY THAT THE BINH XUYEN, THE HOA

HAO, AND THE CAO DAT WERE ALL STRONGER THAN THE BUDDHISTS. THEY

HAD REGULAR ARMED TROOPS BUT THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL ABLE TO

DEFEAT THEM, SO WHY CANNOT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO DEFEAT THE MONKS,

WHO HAVE NEITHER ARMS NOR MILITARY ORGANIZATION? MINH WAS UNABLE

TO CONVINCe THE PRESIDENT THAT THE SITUATIONS WERE NOT THE SAME

BECAUSE OF THE RIGID STAND DIEM HAS TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE

BUDDHISTS. (SOURCE COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME MINH HAS MADE

SUCH STRONG STATEMENTS AGAINST DIEM.)

THE BUDDHIST PROBLEM IS FAR FROM SETTLED. IT IS BECOMING

WORSE AND UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT CHANGES ITS POLICY THERE WILL BE

ADDITIONAL BUDDHIST SELFIMMOLATIONS. (SOURCE COMMENT. SEE ONLY

SECRET THERE MUST BE A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT. SOUTH VIETNAM

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY

(13)

SECRET (When Filled In)	CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS	TDCS DB-3/655,605	IN 82003
	NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD BACKGROUND USE ONLY		PAGE 3

IS LIKE A YOUNG TREE; IT HAS FIRM ROOTS AND IS GROWING BUT IT MUST HAVE A PROPER ATMOSPHERE SO THAT ITS LEAVES, I.E., THE PEOPLE, CAN BREATHE. THE AIR IS LACKING IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

THE E. LINGO DINH NHU CAN NEVER TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT; (SHOULD HE SUCCEED, IT WOULD PROVE THAT THE VIET CONG (VC) ARE RIGHT IN CLAIMING THAT THE VC ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO REALLY FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE.) (SOURCE COMMENT: MAJOR GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMY, AND BRIGADIER GENERAL LE VAN KIM, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, ARE MINH'S CLOSE FRIENDS.) (FVS-9243, TDCS-3/552,503, 11 NOV 67.) (FVS-9256, TDCS-3/552,565, 11 NOV 67.) PRESIDENT NGUYEN NGOC THO TOLD MINH ON 15 JULY THAT IT WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BUDDHISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE SELF-RIDE OF CERTAIN KEY INDIVIDUALS, SUCH AS THE HUSBAND AND ARCHBISHOP NGO DINH THUC, HAD TO BECOME INVOLVED. THO HAS BEEN WANTING TO RESIGN BUT WAS NOT EVEN PERMITTED TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF RESIGNATION; HE STILL INTENDS TO GO THROUGH WITH IT, HOWEVER. (FVS-9243, TDCS-3/552,503, 11 NOV 67.)

HE REPORTED THAT DIEM HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT THO'S WRITTEN RESIGNATION, AS SUBMITTED ON 7 JULY. (FVS-9256, TDCS-3/552,565, 11 NOV 67.) THO'S STATEMENT THAT HE WANTED TO RESIGN BUT WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO THE TIMING IS THE MAINING OF THE MYS NOV 67. THE AC IS NOT SURE A

G. IF THE MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST THE VC CAN BE CONTINUED

AT THE PRESENT RATE FOR A YEAR, THE ARMY CAN DISRUPT THE VC ARMED

SECRET	CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS	IN 82003
	NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY	

18

SECRET (When Filled In)	CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS		IN 82003
	NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD	TDCSDB-3/655;605	

INSURGENTS. THE WINNING OF THE WAR AGAINST THE VC IS NOT SIMPLY A MILITARY PROBLEM, HOWEVER, BUT ONE THAT REQUIRES THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, AND THIS IS LACKING.

H. NO TROUBLE IS ANTICIPATED FROM THE VC ON THE 20 JULY ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS, BUT THE STUDENTS MIGHT CAUSE TROUBLE BECAUSE OF THE SUICIDE OF OPPOSITIONIST NGUYEN TUONG TAM, OF AED. WHO HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL. THE BRIGADIER GENERAL DO CAO TRI WILL REMAIN IN COMMAND OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION FOR THE TIME BEING AND BRIGADIER GENERAL LE VAN NGHIEM WILL REMAIN IN COMMAND OF 4 CORPS, WHICH PLACES NGHIEM IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION AS THE TWO MEN DO NOT GET ALONG WELL WITH EACH OTHER. TRI'S PROMOTION WAS DESERVED BECAUSE HE IS A VERY STRONG FIGHTER. OF (FIELD COMMENT, FVS-9302, TDCSDB-3/655, 512, REPORTED NHU'S STATEMENT (THAT TRI HAD BEEN PROMOTED AND NAMED COMMANDER OF VIICORPS, FVS-9267, TDCSDB-3/552, 405, REPORTED NGHIEM'S STATEMENT OF HIS DESIRE TO RESIGN FROM THE ARMY.)

3. FIELD DISSEM, HQ STATE (AMBASSADOR (NOLTING)), USMACV (GENERAL HARKINS ONLY), CINCPAC/PACFLT (ARPAC/PACAF).

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET (When Filled In)	CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS		IN 82003
	NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY		