

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM

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AGENCY : NARA  
RECORD NUMBER : 176-10036-10134  
RECORD SERIES : National Security Files  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

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ORIGINATOR : CIA  
FROM :  
TO :  
TITLE : CIA Information Telegram  
DATE : 9/21/1963  
PAGES : 2  
SUBJECTS :  
DOCUMENT TYPE :  
CLASSIFICATION :  
RESTRICTIONS :  
CURRENT STATUS :  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 9/10/2000  
OPENING CRITERIA :  
COMMENTS : National Security Files, Box 200: Vietnam, 9/17/1963-9/21/63. Box 2

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

NO FOREIGN DISSEM  
NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM  
SUBJECT PHAM NGOC THAO AND TUYEN GROUP  
READY TO LAUNCH COUP D'ETAT  
DATE OF INFO. 18-19 SEPTEMBER 1963  
PLACE & DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (18-19 SEPTEMBER 1963)  
REPORT NO. TDCS DB-3/656,771  
DATE DISTR. 21 SEPTEMBER 1963  
PRECEDENCE PRIORITY  
REFERENCES IN 24185  
FIELD REPORT NO. FVS 9674

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

SOURCE A VIETNAMESE NATIONALIST (B) WITH EXCELLENT CONTACTS IN LEGAL AND POLITICAL CIRCLES WITH PARAGRAPH 1 FROM DUONG AND WITH PARAGRAPH 2 FROM LINH.

APPRAISAL: PLANS BY THE TUYEN GROUP TO LAUNCH A COUP D'ETAT ARE PROBABLY CONTINUING, BUT THE PRECISE TIMING AND CAPABILITY ARE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE.

1. THE MOVE TO OUST THE NGO FAMILY FROM POWER WAS SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 22 SEPTEMBER 1963, ACCORDING TO NGUYEN HUU DUONG, GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY IN THE SAIGON MUNICIPAL COURTS AND MEMBER OF THE TRAN KIM TUYEN COUP GROUP. DUONG SAID ON 19 SEPTEMBER THAT LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHAM NGOC THAO, STRATEGIC HAMLET INSPECTOR FOR NGO DINH NHU AND MEMBER OF BOTH THE TUYEN GROUP AND THE GROUP LED BY HUYNH VAN LANG, ECONOMICS PROFESSOR AT SAIGON UNIVERSITY, HAD GIVEN HIM THIS INFORMATION. THAO HAD ALSO TOLD DUONG THAT GENERALS DUONG VAN MINH, MILITARY ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT, AND LE VAN KIM OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, WERE INVOLVED IN THE PLANS.

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACST NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC OCJ ONE OCR EXO  
STATE/DIR

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TDCS DB-3/656,771

IN 24185

PAGE 2

2. BRIGADIER GENERAL NGUYEN KHANH, COMMANDING GENERAL, II CORPS, WOULD MOVE ON HUE AT THE SAME TIME THAT THAO LAUNCHED HIS MOVE IN SAIGON, ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT BY LIEUTENANT NGUYEN NGOC LINH, KHANH'S AIDE, ON 18 SEPTEMBER. LINH ALSO SAID THAT THAO WAS READY TO MOVE WITHIN A WEEK TO OVERTHROW DIEM.

3. FIELD DISSEM. STATE AMBASSADOR LODGE, USMACV (GENERAL HARKINS), CINCPAC PACAF ARPAC PACFLT.

END OF MESSAGE

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