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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

S. Vietnam

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CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

SECRET (When Filled In) **NO FOREIGN DISSEM**

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COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM REPORT NO. TDCS-3/552,822

SUBJECT MILITARY PLAN FOR OVERTHROW OF THE DIEM REGIME DATE DISTR. 8 JULY 1963

PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

DATE OF RECEIPT 8 JULY 1963 REFERENCES IN 74898

PLACE & DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (8 JULY 1963) TDCSDB-3/655,403

APPRAISAL 3 FIELD REPORT NO. FVS 9263

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

SOURCE: AN AMERICAN OBSERVER (B) FROM DONON

... THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT ...

... DONON VOLUNTARILY KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER GROUPS ...

1. MAJOR GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, COMMANDER OF THE THIRD CORPS AREA, SAID DON DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER THE PLAN WOULD BE KNOWN OR KEPT SECRET BY THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, SAID ON 8 JULY 1963 THAT THERE WAS A MILITARY PLAN FOR AN OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT EXCEPT FOR ONE OR TWO GENERAL OFFICERS, ALL WERE IN AGREEMENT. THE PLAN CONSISTS OF A MILITARY RULER ADVISED BY A COMMITTEE OF THREE. THE NOMINAL LEADER WOULD BE UNABLE TO TAKE ANY ACTION WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE.

2. DON DID NOT SPECIFY THE TIMING OF THE ACTION BUT SAID THAT HE DID NOT PLAN TO LEAVE THE SAIGON AREA FOR THE NEXT TEN DAYS.

CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

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GROUP 1: Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC	AID	USIA	OCI	ONE	OCR	ORR	OBRI	DD	EXG
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3. DON SAID THAT THE REASON FOR THE MILITARY TAKEOVER WAS

THAT PRESIDENT DIEM HAD FAILED TO ACT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF VIETNAM ON THE OCCASION OF THE 8 MAY BUDDHIST INCIDENT IN HUE.

DON DID NOT SPECIFY THE TIMING OF THE FOLLOW UP BUT SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE ADMITTED ITS MISTAKE AND MADE AMENDS TO THE PEOPLE INVOLVED; THE GOVERNMENT UNFORTUNATELY FAILED TO DO THIS AND PERMITTED THE INCIDENT TO BECOME A NATIONAL ISSUE. THE MILITARY MUST ACT IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE VIET CONG FROM TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE CONTINUING BUDDHIST PROBLEM.

4. DON EMPHASIZED THAT THE ENTIRE NGO FAMILY MUST BE ELIMINATED BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER THEY WOULD BE KILLED OR MERELY EXILED FROM VIETNAM.

5. DON ADMITTED KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER GROUPS PLANNING THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT, BUT DISMISSED TRAN KIM TUYEN'S GROUP AS A "YOUNG" GROUP.

6. ACCORDING TO DON, ONE PROBLEM INVOLVES THE JUNIOR OFFICERS AMONG WHOM THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF DISSATISFACTION, AND ONE OF THE SEVERAL STAGES OF THE MILITARY PLAN INCLUDES MEANS OF SATISFYING THIS GROUP OF OFFICERS.

7. WHEN THE MILITARY GROUP ASSUMES POWER OVER THE GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY AND WILL BE HELD FROM THREE TO SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING THE TAKEOVER OF POWER.

8. FIELD DISSEM. STATE (CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ONLY), USMACV

(GENERAL HARKINS ONLY), CINCPAC, CFLT, ARPAC, PACAF. END OF MESSAGE

SECRET

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