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## WINFORMATION

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM REPORT NO. TDCS DB-3/656,935

SUBJECT POSTPONEMENT OF HUYNH VAN. LANG COUP DATE DISTR. 28 SEPTEMBER 1963

IN HOPE OF IMMEDIATE REFORMS

PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

DATE OF

REFERENCES

in 28998

26 SEPTEMBER 1963 INFO.

PLACE &

DATE ACO. VIETNAM, SAIGON (26 SEPTEMBER 1967)

FIELD REPORT NO. FVS 9714

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

AN AMERICAN OBSERVER (B), FROM THAO.

APPRAISAL: IT IS LIKELY THAT THE COUP ATTEMPT HAS BEEN POSTPONED; WHETHER OR NOT THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE POSTPONEMENT IS TRUE CANNOT BE JUDGED.

- HUYNH VAN LANG'S COUP GROUP DECIDED ON 26 SEPTEMBER SUMMARY. 1963 TO POSTPONE ACTION UNTIL THE MCNAMARA/TAYLOR MISSION HAD DE-PARTED, HOPING THAT PRESIDENT DIEM WOULD BE PERSUADED TO REFORM SHOULD DIEM FAIL TO DO THIS, THE COUP ATTEMPT THE GOVERNMENT. WOULD PROCEED.
- 26 SEPTEMBER LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHAM NGOC THAO, STRATEGIC HAMLET INSPECTOR FOR NGO DINH NHU, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:
- THE COUP GROUP HEADED BY LANG HAD POSTPONED COUP ACTION UNTIL THE MCNAMARA/TAYLOR MISSION HAD DEPARTED, HOPING THAT THE VISIT WOULD CAUSE DIEM TO REMOVE NGO DINH NHU AND

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INSTITUTE REFORM MEASURES.

- IF DIEM SHOULD TAKE THESE TWO STEPS, THE COUP GROUP, ALTHOUGH NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED, WOULD CONSIDER SUCH ACTION PRE-FERABLE TO BLOODSHED AND SCHISM IN THE ARMY WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM A COUP.
- C. SHOULD DIEM FAIL TO TAKE THESE STEPS, THE COUP WILL BE ATTEMPTED.
- D. THE COUP GROUP HAS BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS BECAUSE NHU HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTING MONEY AMONG HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS. (FIELD SEE FVS-9712 (  $_{\text{TDCS-}3/560,375}$  ) FOR INFORMATION FROM THE SAME COMMENT. SOURCE ON THIS.)
- E. BRIGADIER GENERAL TRAN THIEN KHIEM, CHIEF OF STAFF, JOINT GENERAL STAFF, SEEMS DETERMINED TO PROCEED WITH A COUP WHEN HIS WIFE IS NOT IN SAIGON. (SOURCE COMMENT. THAO SAID THAT KHIEM'S WIFE WAS RUNNING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, THAT SHE WAS FULLY SATISFIED WITH HER PERSONAL SITUATION, AND THAT SHE EXERTED A CONSERVATIVE INFLUENCE ON KHIEM WHEN SHE WAS WITH HIM.)
- 3. FIELD DISSEM. STATE (AMBASSADOR LODGE), USMACV (GENERAL HARKINS) CINCPAC PACAF ARPAC PACFLT.

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