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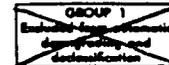
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CITE:

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DIST 17 MAY 1966

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3.4(b)(1)

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COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 15-16 MAY 1966

SUBJECT PRESENCE OF DANANG MAYOR NGUYEN VAN MAN AND STRUGGLE
MOVEMENT LEADERS IN HIDING AT TINH HOI PAGODA IN DANANG

LBJ LIBRARY
Mandatory Review
Case # NLJ 93-68
Document # 139

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON (16 MAY 1966)

FIELD NO.

SOURCE

[Redacted source information]

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1. (SUMMARY. THE PRINCIPAL REFUGE OF STRUGGLE MOVEMENT LEADERS IN DANANG IS THE TINH HOI PAGODA, WHERE DANANG MAYOR NGUYEN VAN MAN, STRUGGLE MOVEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLITICAL ADVISOR TRAN DUY TAM, AND I CORPS COMMANDER OF ARMY ENGINEERS MAJOR TRAI WERE IN HIDING ON THE MORNING OF 16 MAY 1966. FOR A TIME THOSE IN HIDING AT THE PAGODA HOPED FOR MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS FROM HUE AND HOI AN, BUT THE REINFORCING COLUMNS WERE BLOCKED ON THE HIGHWAY AND FORCED TO TURN BACK. IT IS NOW BEING RUMORED THAT MAYOR MAN AND TAM MAY TRY TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE FRENCH CONSULATE AND SEEK ASYLUM THERE. MONKS AND

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(classification) (dissem controls)

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(classification) (dissem controls)

BUDDHIST YOUTH ASSEMBLED AT THE PAGODA ARE ENGAGING IN A SORT OF SIT-IN DEMONSTRATION WHICH MAY DEVELOP INTO A HUNGER STRIKE.)

2. AFTER GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) MARINES ARRIVED IN DANANG ON 15 MAY 1966 SOME MEMBERS OF THE STRUGGLE MOVEMENT TOOK REFUGE IN PHO DA AND TINH HOI PAGODAS, MANY WENT INTO HIDING ELSEWHERE IN DANANG CITY, AND OTHERS TOOK REFUGE IN DANANG EAST, ACROSS THE SONG DA RIVER, FROM WHERE THEY HOPE TO REACH A VIET CONG SAFE AREA IN THE VICINITY OF MARBLE MOUNTAIN.

3. THE PRECISE STATUS OF PHO DA PAGODA IS NOT CLEAR. WHEN THE MARINES SOUGHT TO SEIZE IT ON 15 MAY, MONKS PUT IN AN APPEARANCE AND WENT ABOUT THEIR NORMAL ROUTINE, AND AS A RESULT THE MARINES DID NOT ENTER OR OCCUPY THE PAGODA. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER ANY ADHERENTS OF THE STRUGGLE MOVEMENT REMAINED IN THE PAGODA ON 16 MAY.

4. TINH HOI PAGODA IS THE PRINCIPAL REFUGE OF THE STRUGGLE MOVEMENT MEMBERS. DANANG MAYOR NGUYEN VAN MAN, STRUGGLE MOVEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLITICAL ADVISOR TRAN DUY TAM, AND COMMANDER OF THE ARMY ENGINEERS MAJOR TRAI WERE AT TINH HOI ON THE MORNING OF 16 MAY, AND HA XUAN KY AND THE ENTIRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STRUGGLE MOVEMENT ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE TAKEN REFUGE THERE. MONKS AND BUDDHIST YOUTH HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO THE PAGODA, WHERE THEY ARE ENGAGING IN A

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SORT OF SIT-IN DEMONSTRATION WHICH MAY DEVELOP INTO A HUNGER STRIKE.
(SOURCE COMMENT. THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACTION IS NOT CLEAR, BUT THEIR PRESENCE MAY BE DESIGNED TO DETER MARINES FROM ATTACKING OR FORCIBLY ENTERING THE PAGODA.)

5. FOR A TIME THOSE INSIDE TINH HOI PAGODA HOPED TO RECEIVE MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS FROM HUE AND HOI AN, BUT IN EACH CASE THE REINFORCING COLUMNS WERE BLOCKED ON THE HIGHWAY AND FORCED TO TURN BACK. IT IS NOW BEING RUMORED THAT MAYOR MAN AND TAM MAY TRY TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE FRENCH CONSULATE AND SEEK ASYLUM THERE.

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[REDACTED] IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE MARINES WOULD PREVENT MAN AND TAM FROM GOING TO THE FRENCH CONSULATE, AS THE MARINES' DUTIES ARE PRIMARILY MILITARY ONES AND THERE IS AT PRESENT NO EFFECTIVE POLICE FORCE ON DUTY. A FEW STRUGGLE MOVEMENT LEADERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO ARREST ALL OF THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OR WHICH GVN SECURITY SERVICES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SUCH ARRESTS. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE MARINES HAVE BEEN GIVEN ARREST LISTS OR HAVE ESTABLISHED CHECKPOINTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SCREENING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. THUS THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT MAN AND TAM MIGHT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE FRENCH CONSULATE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.)

6. FIELD DISSEM. STATE USAID USMACV JUSPAO NAVFOR V USARV
7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.

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