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# TELE AM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

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COUNTRY	SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	BUDDHIST OPTIMISM IN OVERTHROW OF DIEM REGIME; TRAINING OF MONKS, NUNS AND STUDENTS; AND, TENTATIVE LIST OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS	DATE DISTR.	17 AUGUST 1963
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	VIETNAM, SAIGON [REDACTED]	REFERENCES	IN Ø1Ø26
APPRAISAL	[REDACTED]	FIELD REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]

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

SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED] BUDDHIST LEADERS WERE OPTIMISTIC THAT PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM COULD BE OVERTHROWN WITHIN SIX MONTHS AND WERE ORGANIZED FOR A STRUGGLE OF SEVERAL MONTHS. MONKS AND NUNS WERE BEING GIVEN INSTRUCTION IN POLITICAL MATTERS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WAS BEING STRESSED.

THICH THIEN MINH, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF VIETNAMESE BUDDHISTS (GAVB) IN CENTRAL VIETNAM, AND THICH TRI QUANG, HEAD OF CENTRAL VIETNAM GAVB, BOTH STRONGLY OPPOSED TO NEUTRALISM, HAD DRAWN UP A TENTATIVE LIST OF MEN WHOM THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE GOVERNMENT IF DIEM WERE OVERTHROWN. IT INCLUDED PHAM KHAC SUU

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A KEY FIGURE OF THE CARAVELLE PETITION OF APRIL 1960 AND ORGANIZER OF THE "BLOC FOR FREEDOM AND PROGRESS" (KHOI TU DO VA TIEN BO), SEVERAL OTHER SIGNERS OF THE CARAVELLE PETITION, BUT NO BONZES. [REDACTED] COMMENT. A BONZE WAS EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE GAVB BECAUSE HE INSISTED ON RUNNING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE 31 AUGUST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. PHAM KHAC SUU IS HIGHLY REGARDED FOR HIS COURAGE AND INTEGRITY, ALTHOUGH HE IS CONSIDERED TOO EASILY INFLUENCED.)

3. [REDACTED] DISSEM. STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMACV MAAG AID USIA 2ND AIR DIVISION 9TH FIELD STATION CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.

END OF MESSAGE

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