

#34

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

70

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT FRUSTRATION AND DISCOURAGEMENT AMONG VIETNAMESE ARMY OFFICERS

DATE DISTR. 23 AUGUST 1963

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

REFERENCES IN 0564

PLACE & DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON [REDACTED]

APPRAISAL

FIELD REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

THE OFFICER CORPS OF THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) WAS DISCOURAGED AND FRUSTRATED, THAT MANY OFFICERS WANTED CHANGES MADE BUT WERE AFRAID TO SUGGEST THEM TO AMERICANS BECAUSE OF FULL AMERICAN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT DIEM, AND THAT MANY OFFICERS BELIEVED THAT CHANGES WERE NEEDED IN ORDER TO PROSECUTE THE WAR AGAINST THE VIET CONG SUCCESSFULLY. ACCORDING TO RUMORS, THE AMERICANS PLANNED THE 21 AUGUST OPERATION AGAINST THE BUDDHISTS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

STATE/INR DIA ARMY/CSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA OCT ONE OCR ORR OO

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

70

JAN 1963

84 (115-30)

CONFIDENTIAL
(WHEN FOLLOWS BY)

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

IN 05611

PAGE 2

2. [REDACTED] THE ATTITUDE PREVAILING WITHIN THE ARVN OFFICER CORPS, PRINCIPALLY BEFORE, BUT ALSO TO SOME EXTENT AFTER THE 21 AUGUST EVENTS.

A. THE OFFICERS ARE DISCOURAGED AND FRUSTRATED; THIS FEELING IS WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE, AND HAS BECOME WORSE SINCE THE ATTACK ON THE PAGODAS AND THE DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW.

B. THE WILL TO FIGHT THE VIET CONG (VC) HAS NOT DIMINISHED BUT MANY OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO WIN THE WAR AGAINST THE VC GIVEN THE PRESENT SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

C. THE GENERAL OFFICERS SHARE THE ATTITUDE ON FRUSTRATION AND DISCOURAGEMENT. [REDACTED] BRIGADIER GENERAL TRAN THIEN KHIEM, CHIEF OF STAFF, JOINT GENERAL STAFF AS ONE OFFICER WHO BELIEVED THAT IF CHANGES WERE NOT MADE, THERE WOULD BE NO CHANCE OF WINNING THE WAR.

D. AS EXAMPLES OF DISCOURAGEMENT AMONG THE OFFICER CROPS, [REDACTED] MAJOR (FNU) PHU, COMMANDER OF THE VNSF 78TH (ALSO RCVD 77TH) GROUP, AN UNIDENTIFIED VNSF CAPTAIN SERVING UNDER MAJOR LE QUANG TRIEU, AND A MAJOR (FNU) MAU (PHONETIC), RECENTLY ASSIGNED AS CHIEF OF THUA THIEN PROVINCE. [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL
(WHEN FOLLOWS BY)

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(WHEN CALLED IN)

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

IN 05611

PAGE 3

E. ONE ESPECIALLY DISCOURAGING FACTOR IS THAT BRIGADIER GENERAL TON THAT DINH, COMMANDER OF THE III CORPS, IS IN CHARGE OF THE SAIGON AREA.

F. ANOTHER DISCOURAGING FACTOR IS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SO FIRMLY SUPPORTS DIEM THAT THE MILITARY CANNOT MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES AND MANY OFFICERS ARE AFRAID OF GIVING FRANK OPINIONS TO AMERICANS.

G. THERE IS A WIDESPREAD RUMOR THAT THE AMERICANS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING THE 21 AUGUST OPERATION. MANY BELIEVED THIS BECAUSE THE VIETNAMESE SPECIAL FORCES (VNSF), NOT THE ARMY, ATTACKED THE PAGODAS ON THE MORNING OF 21 AUGUST AND, AS EVERYONE KNOWS, THE AMERICANS SUPPORT THE VNSF.

H. VNSF COMMANDER COLONEL LE QUANG TUNG KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT MILITARY AFFAIRS AND SOME OFFICERS ARE AFRAID THAT TUNG'S TROOPS WILL SHOOT THEM.

3. THE IDEAL SOLUTION WOULD BE TO GET RID OF NGO DINH NHU AND MADAME NHU AND BRING NEW PEOPLE INTO THE GOVERNMENT. HE REALIZED THE AMERICANS WERE AFRAID OF A CHANGE BECAUSE OF WHAT THIS MIGHT MEAN TO THE WAR EFFORT AND, IN FACT, IT MIGHT LEAD TO THE LOSS OF CONTROL OF SEVERAL PROVINCES. NEVERTHELESS, FAVORED A CHANGE SO THAT THERE WOULD AT LEAST

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(WHEN CALLED IN)

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(WHEN FILLED IN)

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IN 05611

PAGE 4

BE SOME CHANCE OF ULTIMATELY WINNING THE WAR.

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMACV MAAG USOM USIS

2ND AIR DIV 9TH FLD STN CINCPAC PACAF ARPAC PACFLT.

(END OF MESSAGE)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(WHEN FILLED IN)

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]