

#73-73

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	LAOS SOUTH VIETNAM	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	PLANS OF HANOI TO INCREASE MILITARY PRESSURE IN SOUTH VIETNAM	DATE DISTR.	24 AUGUST 1963
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	PRECEDENCE	ROUTINE
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	[REDACTED]	REFERENCES	IN 86240
APPRAISAL	[REDACTED]	FIELD REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]

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

SOURCE [REDACTED]

✓ 1. (SUMMARY: ✓ ORDERS TO WITHDRAW A VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST BATTALION FROM TCHEPONE AND SEND IT TO SOUTH VIETNAM WERE ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH NORTH VIETNAM'S PLAN TO INCREASE MILITARY PRESSURE IN SOUTH VIETNAM DURING THE BUDDHIST CRISIS. HANOI HOPES THIS WILL CONVINC THE UNITED STATES THAT IT MUST HELP RETAIN THE NGO DINH DIEM GOVERNMENT WHILE SOUTH VIETNAM IS UNDER FIRE FROM VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS. HANOI FEARS THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL TRY TO DEPOSE DIEM, AND IF THIS SUCCEEDED, THE BUDDHIST AND OTHER ISSUES USEFUL TO HANOI WOULD EVAPORATE.) ✓

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2. [REDACTED] ON 22 AUGUST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE RECEIVED A WIRELESS MESSAGE FROM HANOI WHICH SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST (VC) BATTALION NOW STATIONED AT TCHEPONE HAS BEEN ORDERED TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY INTO SOUTH VIETNAM TO HELP THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN ITS GUERRILLA EFFORTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HANOI IS ACCELERATING ITS ARMED GUERRILLA ATTACKS IN SOUTH VIETNAM DISPITE THE RAINY SEASON AND THE CONSEQUENT TRANSPORATION DIFFICULTIES. HANOI ADVISED THAT MORE VC TROOPS WILL BE TRANSITING LAOS FOR EVENTUAL USE IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND THAT FRESH REPLACEMENTS FOR THE TCHEPONE BATTALION WILL BE FORTHCOMING SOONEST VIA THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL.

3. [REDACTED] THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE NOT NOW AIDING THE BUDDHISTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM OR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE BUDDHIST SITUATION TO GET THE PEOPLE TO RALLY AGAINST PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM AND HIS GOVERNMENT. HANOI PREFERS TO KEEP DIEM IN OFFICE BECAUSE HE PROVIDES MANY ISSUES WHICH HANOI CAN ATTACK AND USE AS A RALLYING POINT FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY.

✓ 4. [REDACTED] HANOI AND PEIPING FEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT INTERFERE IN THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE POLITICAL SCENE AND TRY TO ATTEMPT A COUP TO ELIMINATE DIEM. HANOI AND PEIPING BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN NOW STAGE A COUP SUCCESSFULLY BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES HAS 13,000 TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND IS

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MORE FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY GENERAL STAFF THAN IN 1960 WHEN, [REDACTED] THE UNITED STATES UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO GET RID OF DIEM BY A MILITARY COUP. THE ORDER TO MOVE THE TCHEPONE BATTALION WAS BASED ON A JOINT HANOI-PEIPING DECISION TO INCREASE MILITARY PRESSURE ON THE DIEM GOVERNMENT IN THE HOPE THAT THE PRESSURE WILL INDUCE THE UNITED STATES TO FEEL THAT IT MUST RETAIN DIEM WHILE SOUTH VIETNAM IS UNDER DIRECT FIRE FROM THE VC GUERRILLAS. [REDACTED] IF THE UNITED STATES SUCCEEDED IN DEPOSING DIEM, THE BUDDHIST AND OTHER ISSUES WOULD EVAPORATE. THIS WOULD REDUCE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, THEREBY REDUCING IMMENSURABLY THE MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VC GUERRILLAS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS WELL AS THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY RECRUITMENT PROGRAM.

5. HANOI HAS POINTED OUT THAT THE LONGER DIEM REMAINS HEAD OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY CHANCES OF ATTAINING ITS OBJECTIVES ARE GREATLY IMPROVED. HANOI HOPES THAT THE CONTINUANCE OF THE BUDDHIST ISSUE WILL INDUCE COMPLETE UNITS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY TO DEFECT TO THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, THEREBY WEAKENING THE ARMY AND UNITED STATES MILITARY STRENGTH NOW FIGHTING THE GUERRILLAS.

6. [REDACTED]

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7. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID CINCPAC PACFLT
PACAF ARPAC.

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