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Case # NLJ 97-27

Document # 56

DIST 28 APRIL 1966

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)  
(C)

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 27 APRIL 1966

SUBJECT PREDICTION OF CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT BY COLONEL PHAM  
VAN LIEU.

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON (28 APRIL 1966) FIELD NO. [REDACTED]

SOURCE [REDACTED]

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: FEB 2001

1. COLONEL PHAM VAN LIEU [REDACTED] IS DUE TO BE REPLACED SHORTLY

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs COLONEL NGUYEN NGOC LOAN AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL POLICE,  
(C)

[REDACTED] CERTAIN CHANGES WOULD OCCUR  
IN THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE PERIOD FROM 30 APRIL TO 2 MAY. (FIELD

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~ [REDACTED]

• ~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~ [REDACTED]  
(classification) (dissem controls)

COMMENT: DEMONSTRATIONS BY LABOR GROUPS, AND POSSIBLY CATHOLICS, ARE EXPECTED ON 1 MAY, AND 2 MAY WILL BE A LEGAL HOLIDAY. LIEU AND OTHERS MAY HOPE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF POSSIBLE DISTURBANCES TO ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE "CHANGES" ON THE GOVERNMENT.) LIEU [REDACTED] HAD ALREADY ARRANGED FOR SOMEONE TO COME TO HIS RESIDENCE IN THE NATIONAL POLICE COMPOUND AS SOON AS THE CHANGES WERE UNDER WAY IN ORDER TO TAKE CHARGE OF RADIO PROPAGANDA OPERATIONS.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(G)

2. [REDACTED] GAVE LITTLE INDICATION OF WHAT CHANGES WERE CONTEMPLATED BUT [REDACTED] THAT CERTAIN GENERALS WOULD BE DISMISSED, AMONG THEM DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN HUU CO, III CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL NGUYEN BAO TRI, AND IV CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL DANG VAN QUANG.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(G)

[REDACTED] ALSO [REDACTED] HUI DIEM, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND DINH THINH CHINH, SECRETARY OF INFORMATION AND OPEN ARMS, WOULD BE AMONG CIVILIANS AFFECTED. (FIELD COMMENT: LIEU [REDACTED] WOULD STAGE A COUP IF HE HAD SUFFICIENT MILITARY SUPPORT, IMPLYING THAT AT THAT TIME HE FELT HE LACKED SUCH SUPPORT.)

3. AS BACKGROUND TO HIS REMARKS ABOUT FORTHCOMING CHANGES, [REDACTED] GENERAL CO HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GENERAL QUANG SEVERAL TIMES RECENTLY, AND [REDACTED] THAT CO WAS SEEKING SUPPORT FOR A COUP FROM QUANG. ON 26 APRIL, POLICE ARRESTED A JEEPLOAD OF MEN UNDER COLONEL LOAN'S CONTROL WHO WERE DISTRIBUTING ANTI-CO LEAFLETS

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-~~ [REDACTED]

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs  
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(classification) (dissem controls)

IN AND AROUND THE SAIGON CENTRAL MARKET. THE LEAFLETS ACCUSED CO AND HIS WIFE OF BEING INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION. [REDACTED] THE LEAFLET OPERATION WAS ORGANIZED BY LOAN WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN CAO KY. AFTER THE ARREST OF HIS MEN, LOAN CAME TO SEE LIEU AND THE LATTER RELEASED THE MEN FROM DETENTION. LIEU [REDACTED] WOULD HAVE PREVENTED THE ARREST IF HE HAD KNOWN ABOUT IT AT THE TIME.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs  
(C)

4. LATER ON 26 APRIL, GENERAL CO LEARNED OF THE LEAFLET OPERATION AND COMPLAINED TO LOAN. LOAN DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE AFFAIR. WHEN CO CALLED LATER TO SAY HE HAD PROOF OF LOAN'S INVOLVEMENT, THE LATTER REPLIED, "SO WHAT".

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USAID JUSPAO USMACV USARV NAVFORV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT.

~~REPORT CLASS CONFIDENTIAL~~ [REDACTED]

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