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Case # NLJ 97-27

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DIST 21 APRIL 1966

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

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 21 APRIL 1966

SUBJRT APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL LOAN AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF NATIONAL POLICE; LOAN'S VIEWS ON PRIME MINISTER KY'S FUTURE ROLE; AND ATTEMPT BY KY TO MEET WITH GENERAL THI.

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON 21 APRIL 1966) FIELD NO. [REDACTED]

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. COLONEL NGUYEN NGOC LOAN [REDACTED] ON 21 APRIL [REDACTED] HAD BEEN NAMED TO REPLACE COLONEL PHAM VAN LIEU AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF NATIONAL POLICE. LOAN [REDACTED] WOULD GIVE UP HIS PRESENT POST OF CHIEF OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION BUT WOULD RETAIN THE POST OF CHIEF OF THE MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.

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2. [REDACTED] PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN CAO KY HAD PREVIOUSLY ASKED HIM TO ACCEPT THE POLICE POST BUT HE HAD DECLINED. ASIDE FROM HIMSELF AND COLONEL LIEU, LOAN KNEW OF NO ONE ELSE WHO

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WOULD BE QUALIFIED. LOAN [REDACTED] HAD SET THREE CONDITIONS FOR HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE POST AND [REDACTED] KY HAD AGREED. THE CONDITIONS WERE:

A. KY WOULD REMAIN AS PRIME MINISTER AND HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER.

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B. KY WOULD RELINQUISH HIS RANK AS AIR VICE MARSHAL AND COMMANDER OF THE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE AND TURN OVER THE AIR FORCE COMMAND TO HIS PRESENT DEPUTY, COLONEL TRAN VAN MINH.

C. AFTER COMPLETING HIS DUTIES AS PRIME MINISTER, KY WOULD RETURN TO MILITARY SERVICE IN A VERY SENIOR POSITION SUCH AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE, CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF, OR BOTH. KY WOULD THEN TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF REORGANIZING THE GVN ARMED FORCES, ELIMINATING SENIOR OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN POLITICS, AND ASSIGNING QUALIFIED OFFICERS TO KEY POSITIONS.

3. LOAN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE MILITARY WOULD SUPPORT KY, BOTH IN HIS PRESENT ROLE AND IN THE FUTURE. LOAN ALSO BELIEVES KY WILL RECEIVE CIVILIAN SUPPORT. ACCORDING TO LOAN, KY HAD MADE AND ATTEMPT THROUGH A THIRD PARTY TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN KY AND GENERAL NGUYEN CHANH THI. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WOULD BE TO DETERMINE WHAT THI WANTED TO DO IN THE FUTURE. THI HAS SO FAR REFUSED THE INVITATION, EVEN ON THE CONDITION THAT KY WAS PREPARED TO MEET

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HIM ANYWHERE IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

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