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PAGE 1 OF 5 PAGES

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

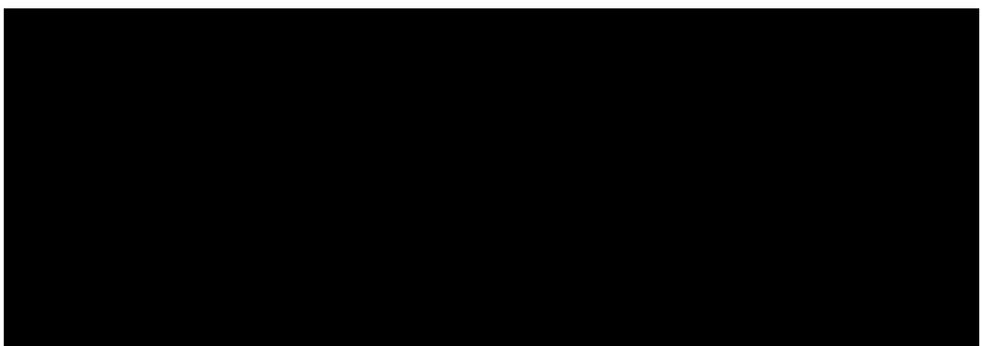
COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 21 JULY 1967

SUBJECT PLANNING FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION IN AUGUST OF
THE THIEU-KY UNITED POLITICAL FRONT

ACQ

SOURCE



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

1. (SUMMARY: PLANNING IS PROCEEDING FOR AN EARLY AUGUST 1967 NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE UNITED POLITICAL FRONT IN SUPPORT OF THE THIEU-KY PRESIDENTIAL TICKET. THERE HAS BEEN SOME RELUCTANCE AMONG HOA HAO LEADERS TO JOINING A "FRONT" AND THE FRONT LEADERSHIP MAY ADOPT THE MORE PALATABLE WORD IN VIETNAMESE, "BLOC".)

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2. AS OF 21 JULY, PLANNING WITHING THE UNITED POLITICAL FRONT WHICH HAS BEEN FORMED TO SUPPORT THE THIEU-KY PRESIDENTIAL TICKET HAD PROGRESSED AS FOLLOWS, AFTER MANY ORGANIZED MEETINGS AMONG GOVERNMENT, CAO DAI, VIETNAM NATIONALIST PARTY (VNQDD) AND HOA HAO LEADERS:

A. THE PROVISIONAL CONTROL COMMITTEE OF THE FRONT GROUP WAS TO MEET ON 21 JULY TO PREPARE THE FORMAT FOR INVITATIONS TO FRONT DELEGATES' ATTENDANCE AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

B. ON 25 JULY AN APPEAL FOR MEMBERS TO JOIN THE FRONT ORGANIZATION WILL BE LAUNCHED VIA PRESS AND RADIO. THIS APPEAL WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARDS INDEPENDENTS AND LEADERS OF VARIOUS SMALL SPLINTER GROUPS.

C. 1 - 3 AUGUST: A NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN SAIGON.

3. THE FRONT LEADERSHIP EXPECTS THE FOLLOWING DELEGATE REPRESENTATION FROM THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE COUNTRY: 50 FROM I CORPS, MAINLY VNQDD AND INDEPENDENT POLITICAL PERSONALITIES; 50 FROM II CORPS; 75 FROM TRANS-BASSAC; 100 FROM BASSAC; 100 FROM THE EASTERN REGION; AND 50-100 FROM THE

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SAIGON METROPOLITAN AREA. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE CONVENTION WILL COST ABOUT THREE MILLION PIASTERS (US\$37,500), PRIMARILY FOR TRANSPORTATION CHARGES TO AND FROM SAIGON AND FOR SUBSISTENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

4. THE ONLY PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FRONT HAS BEEN THE RELUCTANCE OF THE HOA HAO LEADERS TO AGREE TO JOINING A FRONT (MAT TRAN) AS OPPOSED TO A BLOC (KHOD). HOWEVER, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FRONT HAS AGREED TO A CHANGE IN ITS NAME TO THAT OF A BLOC, WHICH WILL HAVE LITTLE OR NO EFFECT ON THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION AMONG THE ELEMENTS OF THE FRONT. THE WORD "BLOC" IN VIETNAMESE IMPLIES A SLIGHTLY LESS-ORGANIZED GROUP WITH A LESS INTIMATE ASSOCIATION OR MEMBERSHIP AND A LESS AGGRESSIVE APPROACH TO OVERALL OBJECTIVES.

5. THE MERE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT PARTY IS SPONSORING THE TWO SENIOR MILITARY CANDIDATES AS PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT IS NO SURE GUARANTEE FOR THIS TICKET. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE MIDDLE TO UPPER ECHELONS OF THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES IN THE SAIGON AREA, PARTICU-

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LARLY THOSE OF SOUTHERN ORIGIN, WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE THIEU-KY TICKET AS REPRESENTING CENTRAL VIETNAM AND NORTH VIETNAM, AS WELL AS GENERALLY OPPOSED TO A MILITARIST FORM OF GOVERNMENT. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL POLICE BRIGADIER NGUYEN NGOC LOAN'S POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE ACCEPTED HIS GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT THE THIEU-KY TICKET, BUT THEY HAVE DONE SO WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR PERSONAL ENTHUSIASM. AS FAR AS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE SUPPORT AT THE LOWER PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS IS CONCERNED, THE DEGREE OF ORGANIZED CONTROL FROM THE SAIGON LEVEL IS NOT ENOUGH TO ASSURE A VOTE FOR THE THIEU-KY CANDIDACY IN MASSIVE PROPORTIONS. ALTHOUGH THESE EMPLOYEES CAN BE COUNTED ON FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SUPPORT, THEIR MERE EXISTENCE AND THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SPONSORING A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ARE NOT A GUARANTEE OF THAT CANDIDATE'S VICTORY.

6. (FIELD COMMENT: KY'S UNITED POLITICAL FRONT WAS ALSO THE SUBJECT OF [REDACTED] WHICH [REDACTED] IDENTIFIED SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF THE FRONT AND GAVE DETAILS ABOUT ITS FINANCING.)

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE (AMBASSADOR BUNKER, DEPUTY

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AMBASSADOR LOCKE, POLITICAL COUNSELOR) USMACV (GENERAL
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