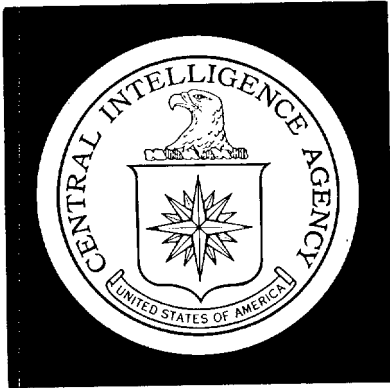


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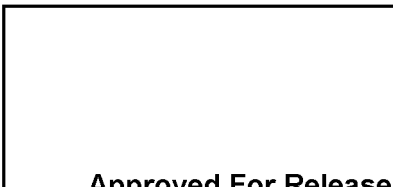
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[Redacted]

SOUTH VIETNAM: Vice President Ky says obstacles put in his way by Thieu will probably keep him from qualifying as a presidential candidate. [Redacted]  
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SOUTH VIETNAM: VICE PRESIDENT KY SAYS THAT OBSTACLES PUT IN HIS WAY BY PRESIDENT THIEU AND THE GOVERNMENT HIERARCHY WILL PROBABLY KEEP HIM FROM QUALIFYING AS A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] KY TOLD DEPUTY AMBASSADOR BERGER ON 23 JULY THAT HE HAD ONLY ABOUT A THIRD OF THE REQUIRED 100 ENDORSEMENTS OF HIS CANDIDACY BY PROVINCIAL COUNCILORS. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE COMMITMENTS FROM ANOTHER 75 COUNCILORS, BUT HE SAYS THEIR EFFORTS TO REGISTER THEIR ENDORSEMENTS ARE BEING OBSTRUCTED AND THAT THEY ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO ACTS OF INTIMIDATION. AS A RESULT, HE SAYS THAT UNLESS THE US INTERVENES WITH THIEU, HE DOUBTS THAT HE CAN QUALIFY BY THE 4 AUGUST DEADLINE.

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KY CLAIMS THAT IF HE FAILS TO MAKE THE LIST OF CANDIDATES, BIG MINH WILL ALSO PULL OUT OF THE RACE, LEAVING THIEU WITHOUT CREDIBLE OPPOSITION. THIS IS IN LINE WITH WHAT MINH HIMSELF HAS BEEN SAYING.

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