

NSC BRIEFING

24 June 1954

VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS

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I. Gov. Giao of Central Vietnam [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Spends
public money lavishly on self.

A. He reported planning early
trip Paris, probably to
wait and see in safety how
things go in Indochina.

B. Giao heads a Catholic faction
in Central Vietnam rivalling
that of Premier-designate Diem.

1. Thus, if Giao stays
on he and Diem quite
likely to fight.

II. In Saigon, there no real Vietnamese
authority present.

A. Gov. Hoai of South Vietnam is complete nonentity and almost never mentioned.

1. This province in past actually run by central government anyway.

B. But all of key leaders of lame duck govt. (except PM Buu Loc) still in Europe and showing no desire return.

C. Buu Loc aimlessly wandering around Saigon making gloomy predictions. Naturally, he not undertaking any serious steps.

III. Diem is in France and not yet picked his cabinet. Promises return to Vietnam next week after 4 years' absence.

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A. No one but himself expects he
will accomplish much. He

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lacking in popular

support except for small

Catholic following.

1. Only asset generally
ascribed to him is
honesty.

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