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2/6/78  
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1 November 1963

CAS Saigon 2130 to CAS Washington

FLASH

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION FOR MCCONE



RED NECERCHIEF TROOPS POURING INTO SAIGON FROM DIRECTION BIEN HOA, PRESUMABLY MARINES. TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER TAKEN BY THESE FORCES. REPEAT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER NOT RPT NOT PTT. NAVY YARD ALSO APPARENTLY TAKEN. ADDITIONAL FORCES CONTINUE TO ENTER. MAGNITUDE UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME.

AS OF 1345 HRS SAIGON TIME, [REDACTED] HAS INFORMED 251X  
CONEIN THAT THE COUP IS IN PROGRESS.

FBI HQ CONTROL #78-378  
PACKET #16

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1 November 1963

CAS Saigon 2131 to CAS Washington

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IMMEDIATE ATTENTION FOR MCCONE

~~XX~~ CAS OFFICERS ON THE STREET AND REPORTING BY RADIO  
STATE AS FOLLOWS:

POLICE COMPOUND TAKEN BY MARINES

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TAKEN BY MARINES

MSS HQD BLOCKED BY MARINES

MSS CAPITAL ~~HMS~~ HQS STILL FREE AND OPEN

MARINES FROM QUANG TRUNG TRAINING CENTER

ALSO FIGHTING IS REPORTED IN VIETNAMESE SPECIAL FORCES  
AREA ~~X~~ AT TAN SON NHUT. THIS CONFIRMED BY CAS OFFICER RESIDING  
NEARBY.

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CONEIN REPORTS FROM HGS HQS THAT COL TUNG CAPTURED BY  
GENERALS AND HAS BEEN GIVEN ORDERS TO ISSUE CEASE FIRE.  
CAS OBSERVERS ADD PRESIDENTIAL GUARD BARRACKS HAVE BEEN ENTERED  
BY INSURGENTS BUT FIGHTING DOES NOT APPEAR INTENSE RPT DOES  
NOT APPEAR INTENSE.

GIA LONG PALACE SURROUNDED AND ARMORED UNITS MOVING  
THROUGH THE CITY.

FIGHTING HAS CEASED AT VNSF COMPOUND.

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CAS Saigon 2133 to CAS Washington

FLASH

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION FOR MCCONE

ALL BELOW EYE WITNESS OF CAS OFFICERS:

FIGHTING IN PROGRESS AT GIA LONG PALACE WITH APPROX  
200 TROOPS OBSERVED AND APPARENTLY STRONG FIRE FIGHT.

CONEIN REPORTS FROM JGS THAT AIR FORCE CHIEF, COLONEL  
HUYNH HUU HIEN, ALSO TAKEN PRISONER AND HAS BEEN ORDERED  
TO PLACE AIR FORCE AT DISPOSITION GENERALS. 35 ARMORED  
CARS BEGINNING ROLL FROM JGS TOWARD PALACE. SEARCH UNDER  
WAY FOR TUNG'S BROTHER, VNSF DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, WHO TO  
BE TAKEN PRISONER IMMEDIATELY.

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IMMEDIATE ATTENTION FOR MCCONG



FOLLOWING FROM CONEIN AT JGS HQS FROM GENS BIG MINH AND DON  
AND EYE WITNESS OBSERVATION:

FOLLOWING ARE PRISONERS AT JGS:

COL TUNG, POLICE COMMISSIONER TU, AIR FORCE COMMANDER  
HIEN, AIRBORNE COMMANDER COL VIEN, MARINE COMMANDER KHANG,  
CIVIL GUARD COMMANDER LAM, NAVY COMMANDER QUYNH~~X~~ KILLED  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ MORNING 1 NOV IN PREMATURE ACTION BY NAVY.

GEN<sup>S</sup> ATTEMPTING CONTACT PALACE BY TELEPHONE BUT UNABLE TO  
DO SO. THEIR PROPOSITION AS FOLLOWS: IF THE PRESIDENT WILL RESIGN  
IMMEDIATELY, THEY WILL GUARANTEE HIS SAFETY AND THE SAFE DEPARTURE  
OF THE PRESIDENT AND NGO DINH NHU. IF THE PRESIDENT REFUSES  
THESE TERMS, THE PALACE WILL BE ATTACKED WITHIN THE HOUR BY  
AIR FORCE AND ARMOR.

CONEIN STATES ULTIMATUM APPEARS FINAL.

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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By KBH, NARA, Date 6/10/99

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FLASH

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION FOR MCCONE

25X6

RESIDENCE:

MINISTER OF DEFENSE THUAN

MINISTER OF ECONOMICS THANH

MINISTER OF FINANCE LUONG

25X1

25X1

CONCERN REPORTS FROM JGS THAT GEN [REDACTED] WAS THE KEY  
TO THE GENERALS COUP. WHEN HE AGREED, THE COUP ~~WENT~~ BEGAN.

25X1X

[REDACTED] REPORTS FROM USSF "B" TEAM COMMANDER, SAIGON,  
THAT AT TIME OF ATTACK ON VNSF COMPOUND AMERICAN ADVISORS HAD  
BEEN CALLED TO THIRD CORPS HQS ~~XXX~~ AND ALL ARE SAFE.

VIETNAMESE NAVAL PERSONNEL APPARENTLY BEING HELD ABOARD  
HOVE-TO IN  
PC ~~XXXXXXXX~~ SAIGON RIVER SURROUNDED BY SMALLER CRAFT ALSO OCCUPIED  
BY VN ~~NAVY~~ NAVY PERSONNEL

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IMMEDIATE ATTENTION FOR MCCONE



CONEIN REPORTS FROM JGS GENS FIRMLY DECIDED THERE TO BE NO RPT NO DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE WILL EITHER SAY YES OR NO AND THAT IS THE END OF THE CONVERSATION.

~~REXX~~ CAS OFFICER OBSERVED FOUR AD-6 FIGHTER BOMBERS WITH MUNITIONS ABOARD AT APPROX 10,000 FT OVER SAIGON AT 1515.

HEAVY FIGHTING INCLUDING ARMOR, SMALL ARMS, AND POSSIBLY SOME LIGHT ARTILLARY VICINITY PALACE AS OF 1530 HRS.

CONEIN REPORTS FROM JGS GENS ~~ABSOLUTELY REFUSE DISCUSS ANY PROPOSITION WITH THE PRESIDENT. NEXT WILL NEXT THEY ARE WAITING FOR A QUICK ANSWER BUT READY TO ATTACK. CONEIN ALSO STATES~~

GENS HAVE MONITORED RADIO BROADCAST FROM PALACE TO FIRST AND SECOND CORPS AND 21ST DIVISION. BORADCASTS STATES COUP ATTEMPTED IN SAIGON BUT ALL INSURGENTS ARRESTED. CAN HEAR FIGHTING FROM EMBASSY. CAN CONFIRM INSURGENTS NOT RPT NOT ARRESTED.

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AS OF 1535,105 FIRE REPORTED PALACE VICINITY.



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CONEIN REPORTS FROM JGS GENS PREPARING HEAVY/BOMBARDMENT  
ON PALACE IMMEDIATELY.



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IMMEDIATE FOR MCCONE



~~TEXT~~ CONEIN REPORTS FROM JGS THAT GENS HAVE GROUP OF  
NATIONALISTIC ANTI-COMMUNIST PRO-WESTERN CIVILIAN POLITICIANS  
WITH THEM AT JGS. THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL HEAD THE NEW CIVIL  
ADMINISTRATION. THERE WILL BE NO MILITARY PERSONALITIES IN  
HIGH POSITIONS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. MILITARY HOPES TO  
TURN OVER GOVERNMENT TO THE CIVILIANS WITHIN TWO TO THREE DAYS.

GENS HAVE TAPED A PROCLAMATION FOR BROADCAST AND HAVE  
TAKEN OVER VTVN STUDIOS. HOWEVER, ONE RELAY POINT APPARENTLY  
BLOWN UP, AND BROADCAST OF PROCLAMATION DELAYED.

NOW AT JGS ARE GENS "BIG" AND "LITTLE" MINH, KHIEM, KIM,  
XHE LE, AND CHIEU. GENS CLAIM GEN KHANH AND GEN TRI  
ALSO SUPPORTING COUP. GENS REPORT BIEN HOA AND MYTHO HAVE  
BEEN TAKEN BY FORCES LOYAL TO THEM.

NOW HEAVY FIRING VICINITY EMBASSY. TRIPLE AAA GOING UP.  
APPARENTLY DUEL GOING ON BETWEEN AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS IN RIVER.

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