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			PAGE 2

INSTITUTE REFORM MEASURES.

B. IF DIEM SHOULD TAKE THESE TWO STEPS, THE COUP GROUP, ALTHOUGH NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED, WOULD CONSIDER SUCH ACTION PREFERABLE TO BLOODSHED AND SCHISM IN THE ARMY WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM A COUP.

C. SHOULD DIEM FAIL TO TAKE THESE STEPS, THE COUP WILL BE ATTEMPTED.

D. THE COUP GROUP HAS BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS BECAUSE NHU HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTING MONEY AMONG HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS. (FIELD COMMENT. SEE FVS-9712 (TDCS-3/560,375) FOR INFORMATION FROM THE SAME SOURCE ON THIS.)

E. BRIGADIER GENERAL TRAN THIEN KHIEM, CHIEF OF STAFF, JOINT GENERAL STAFF, SEEMS DETERMINED TO PROCEED WITH A COUP WHEN HIS WIFE IS NOT IN SAIGON. (SOURCE COMMENT. THAO SAID THAT KHIEM'S WIFE WAS RUNNING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, THAT SHE WAS FULLY SATISFIED WITH HER PERSONAL SITUATION, AND THAT SHE EXERTED A CONSERVATIVE INFLUENCE ON KHIEM WHEN SHE WAS WITH HIM.)

3. FIELD DISSEM. STATE (AMBASSADOR LODGE), USMACV (GENERAL HARKINS) CINCPAC PACAF ARPAC PACFLT.

END OF MESSAGE

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