

Date : 05/20/97

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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM-----
AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : USA
RECORD NUMBER : 197-10002-10196
RECORDS SERIES : HEADQUARTERS FILES, PENTAGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
FROM :
TO :
TITLE : REVIEW, 22 NOVEMBER 1963
DATE : 11/23/96
PAGES : 13
SUBJECTS : SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : SECRET
RESTRICTIONS : 1A
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED WITH DELETIONS
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : / /
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS :

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY SOUTHEAST ASIA

REPORT NO. TDCS -3/565,804

SUBJECT [REDACTED] 22 NOVEMBER 1963

DATE DISTR. 23 NOVEMBER 1963

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO. 22 NOVEMBER 1963

REFERENCES IN 66899

PLACE & DATE ACQ. [REDACTED] (22 NOVEMBER 1963)

FIELD REPORT NO. FSS 13694

APPRAISAL

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

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Jan 5/14/97

1. BURMA-- NEGOTIATIONS WITH INSURGENTS.

A. THE PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WHITE FLAG COMMUNISTS AND THEIR ASSOCIATES IN THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNITED FRONT (NDUF) BROKE DOWN ON 14 NOV. 491 PEOPLE, INCLUDING LEADING LEFT WING POLITICIANS, WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED. THE NDUF WAS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT BY POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE TALKS.

B. THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ACCEPT A BREAKDOWN

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GROUP 1
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STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACSI NAVY ATR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA OCI ONE OCR ORR [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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WAS SERIOUS AND BOLD AS CHINA WAS CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE WHITE FLAG COMMUNISTS. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME ENCOURAGEMENT OR REASSURANCE FROM THE USSR, ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE PERSONS ARRESTED ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MOSCOW ORIENTED.

C. THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL PROBABLY ENCOURAGE THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH SAW HUNTER AND THE MORE MODERATE INSURGENTS. IF THESE TALKS FAIL, GENERAL NE WIN WILL BE FACED WITH AN INSURGENT THREAT WHICH HAS INCREASED RAPIDLY.

2. CAMBODIA--RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

A. AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS ON 19 NOV IT WAS DECIDED TO DISPENSE IMMEDIATELY WITH ALL US AID. THIS DECISION FOLLOWED A LONG INTERROGATION OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE KHMER SEREI WHICH WAS CONSIDERED TO PROVE US INVOLVEMENT IN ITS ACTIVITIES AND BROADCASTS. IN FACT THEIR ANSWERS SEEM TO SHOW NO MORE THAN THAT US ARMS AND EQUIPMENT ARE PLENTIFUL IN SOUTH VIETNAM, THAT THE KHMER SEREI HAD RECEIVED AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO FIGHT THE VIET CONG AND ALSO AMERICAN RADIO APPARATUS.

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SIHANOUK'S SPEECHES LASHED THE CROWD INTO A FURY AND ONE OF THE MEMBERS HAS BEEN COMMITTED FOR TRIAL BY A MILITARY COURT WITH WHAT AMOUNTS TO A DIRECTION THAT HE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE DEATH SENTENCE.

B. TWO MIG FIGHTERS WERE DELIVERED IN CRATES AT POCHENTONG ON 8 NOV, BROUGHT BY ROAD FROM SIHANOUKVILLE. TWO FURTHER MACHINES WERE EXPECTED THE NEXT DAY. THE RUSSIAN SHIP WHICH BROUGHT THE PLANES HAD A DECK CARGO OF SOME TWENTY FIVE VEHICLES. SOME OF THESE MAY CONTAIN FIGHTERS DIRECTION RADAR.

3. INDONESIA-- GOVERNMENT CHANGES.

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR AT DJAKARTA HAS COMMENTED THAT THE RECENT CABINET CHANGES SEEM TO REFLECT SOME DECLINE IN NASUTIONS INFLUENCE. ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE THREE NEW DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS EXERCISES ANY SUPERVISORY FUNCTION OVER THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY "COMPARTMENT" FOR WHICH HE IS COORDINATING MINISTER, HE HAS LOST THE HONORIFIC TITLE OF DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND HIS INFLUENCE AT THE CENTER IS LESS THAN THAT OF

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SUBANDRIO, CHAERUL SALEH AND LEIMENA.

4. LAOS—RENEWED CEASE FIRE NEGOTIATIONS.

A. MILITARY DELEGATIONS LED BY COLONEL SINGKAPO AND KONG LE MET AT THE PLAINE DES JARRES ON 16 NOV, IN THE PRESENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ICC AND THE COCHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE PATHET LAO DELEGATION PROPOSED A CEASE FIRE BETWEEN THEIR FORCES AND THOSE OF THE NEUTRALISTS AND ALSO SUGGESTED FURTHER TALKS BETWEEN THE MILITARY LEADERS TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR POLITICAL TALKS BETWEEN PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND PRINCE SOUPHANNOUVONG. THE NEUTRALISTS PROPOSED A RETURN TO THE POSITIONS OF JULY 1962 AND AN INCREASE IN THE ACTIVITY OF THE ICC.

B. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO ORDER A CEASE FIRE WHILE TALKS CONTINUE (THIS MAY HAVE BEEN BROKEN ALREADY).

C. THE PATHET LAO APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO SPLIT THE NEUTRALISTS AND PHOUANG'S FORCES. KONG LE IS WELL AWARE OF THIS. THE RIGHT WING REACTION TO THESE TALKS HAS NOT BEEN EXPRESSED BUT AT SUBORDINATE LEVEL THEY DO NOT SEEM DISPOSED TO OBJECT.

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D. IF THE POLITICAL TALKS TAKE PLACE THEY MAY BE ARRANGED AT LUANG PRABANG. SOUVANNA PHOUMA INTENDS TO PROPOSE THIS AS A NEUTRALIZED PROVISIONAL CAPITAL.

E. THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE IS ENCOURAGING THE NEUTRALISTS IN THEIR LINE.

F. THE OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED BY NEUTRALIST AND RIGHT WING FORCES ON 9 NOV HAS LOST ITS MOMENTUM. XIENG KHOUANG WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN ATTACKED ON 10 NOVEMBER IS STILL HELD BY THE PATHET LAO. THE RIGHT WING TROOPS FAILED TO PUSH THE ATTACK AS PLANNED.

5. MALAYSIA--MALAYS.

A. THE FEDERATION SPECIAL BRANCH HAS ARRESTED AND DETAINED AN INDONESIAN FROM SUMATRA WHO ARRIVED AT BATU PAHAT IN A BOAT CARRYING RAW RUBBER FROM SUMATRA. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE VISITED RELATIVES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR TWO DAYS AND THEN LEFT AGAIN FOR SUMATRA IN THE BOAT. HOWEVER HE THEN LANDED ILLEGALLY FURTHER DOWN THE COAST SHORTLY BEFORE HE WAS PICKED UP ON SUSPICION. UNDER INTERROGATION HE ADMITTED

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THAT HE WAS ONE OF A PARTY OF SEVEN INDONESIANS WHO HAD RECEIVED TRAINING IN PULAU BENKALIS, SUMATRA, AND WERE PUT ASHORE AT VARIOUS POINTS ALONG THE COAST BETWEEN MUAR AND PONTIAN. THEIR MISSION WAS TO PIN POINT POLICE STATIONS, GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS (IF ANY), AND MAKE NOTES AND DRAWINGS OF THEM. THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO A CENTRAL RENDEZVOUS ON 5 NOV WHEN THEY WOULD BE TAKEN OFF BY BOAT TO INDONESIA. THEY WERE TO BE RECOGNIZED AND RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER BY ROLLING UP THE RIGHT SLEEVE OF THEIR SHIRTS. UNFORTUNATELY THE PRISONER WAS ONLY BROKEN UNDER INTERROGATION ON 7 NOVEMBER.

5. UNDER FURTHER QUESTIONING HE GAVE THE NAME OF A LOCAL INDONESIAN PENGULU AS ANOTHER CONTACT. THIS PERSON HAS NOW BEEN ARRESTED AND IS UNDER SPECIAL BRANCH INTERROGATION. SOME PSEUDO-INDONESIAN DOCUMENTS WERE FOUND AT HIS HOUSE. SO FAR SPECIAL BRANCH HAS FOUND NO TRACE OF THE OTHER SIX PERSONS ALLEGED TO HAVE INFILTRATED. INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING.

6. MALAYSIA -- SINGAPORE.

A. THIRTY LEFT WING TRADE UNIONS AFFILIATED TO THE

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FORMER SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION OF TRADES UNIONS (SATU) REACTED TO THE BANNING OF SATU IN A STATEMENT ON 16 NOV WARNING THAT "THE PEOPLE OF SINGAPORE WOULD BE FORCED TO SEEK OTHER MEANS TO CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE FOR A NATIONAL, DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT SHOULD THE CHANNEL OF CONSTITUTIONAL STRUGGLE BE BLOCKED." THE REACTIONARY GROUPS, THE STATEMENT ADDED, "WILL BEAR ALL CONSEQUENCES THAT MAY ARISE." FOLLOWING THE BAN ON SATU THE ROLE OF THE BARISAN SOSIALIS^(BS)/ASSUMED INCREASING IMPORTANCE, SINCE IT IS NOW ALMOST THE ONLY REMAINING OVERT AND REGISTERED ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE A WIDE REPRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNIST INSPIRED UNITED FRONT. AT A MEETING OF LEADERS OF THE PARTY ON 10 NOV DR. LEE SIEW-CHOH, THE CHAIRMAN, WAS REPORTED BY A DELICATE SOURCE TO HAVE URGED BRANCHES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR ORGANIZATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIVE CONSTITUENCIES WHERE BY ELECTIONS WERE POSSIBLE FOLLOWING THE DETENTION OF THREE, AND DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO, BS ASSEMBLYMEN. DR. LEE ALSO REPORTEDLY POINTED TO THE DEVELOPING GUERILLA WAR IN SARAWAK AS

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BEING FAVORABLE TO THE LEFT WING MOVEMENT IN SINGAPORE.

7. MALAYSIA--SARAWAK.

A. ON 13 NOV A SECURITY FORCE PATROL CLASHED WITH AN ENEMY GROUP OF UNKNOWN STRENGTH IN THE BORDER AREA APPROXIMATELY TWENTY MILES EAST-NORTH-EAST OF LUBOK ANTU, IN THIRD DIVISION. AFTER A FIGHT WHICH LASTED FOR ABOUT FORTY-FIVE MINUTES THE ENEMY PARTY WITHDREW ACROSS THE FRONTIER. IN THIS ACTION ONE POLICE FIELD FORCE MEMBER WAS WOUNDED AND SUBSEQUENTLY DIED. ENEMY CASUALTIES ARE OBSCURE BUT IT IS THOUGHT THAT AT LEAST FIVE OF THEM WERE HIT.

B. IN SECOND DIVISION, AN ENEMY PARTY APPROXIMATELY FIFTY STRONG ENTERED A LONG HOUSE ON THE BORDER SOUTH WEST OF SIMANGGANG AT MIDNIGHT ON 15-16 NOVEMBER. FOLLOWING SOME INDISCRIMINATE FIRING WHICH LASTED ABOUT TEN MINUTES THE RAIDING PARTY WITHDREW HAVING SLIGHTLY WOUNDED ONE LOCAL IBAN. NO OTHER CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. IN TAKING FOLLOW-UP ACTION, SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THIS GROUP.

C. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AN IRREGULAR FORCE OF UNKNOWN

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STRENGTH BUT IN POSSESSION OF A MORTAR HAS PENETRATED INTO FIRST DIVISION. ON 19 NOV A LOCAL WAS STOPPED BY AN ARMED UNIFORM MAN NEAR KAMPONG SELAMPIT (DUE SOUTH OF LUNDU) AND TOLD TO RETURN TO HIS KAMPONG OR HE WOULD BE SHOT. SOME 15 MINUTES LATER SIX ROUNDS OF FAIRLY ACCURATE MORTAR FIRE FELL IN THE KAMPONG SELAMPIT AREA. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. FOLLOWUP (PORTION GARBLED - / BEING SERVICED) THE MORTAR POSITION SOUTH OF THE VILLAGE AND SOME FOUR MILES INSIDE SARAWAK. THE MORTAR USED HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A 50MM TYPE. A LARGE QUANTITY OF TYPED AND WRITTEN PROPAGANDA IN MALAY WAS FOUND IN THE VICINITY.

D. THERE WERE TWO MORE BORDER VIOLATIONS BY INDONESIAN AIRCRAFT ON 17 NOVEMBER. ONE WAS AT BARIO AND LONG RAPANG, ON THE BORDER OF THE FOURTH AND FIFTH DIVISIONS OF SARAWAK, AND THE OTHER AT WALLAGE BAY ON SEBATIK ISLAND. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE SAME F51 AND B25 AIRCRAFT WERE CONCERNED IN BOTH INCIDENTS.

E. IN THE COURSE OF A RECENT OPERATION IN THE

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BEKENU AREA OF FOURTH DIVISION, 12 CHINESE, EIGHT OF WHOM HAD COME TO BEKENU FROM KUCHING WITHIN THE PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS, WERE ARRESTED. INTERROGATION HAS REVEALED THAT THE CHINESE FROM KUCHING, ALL OF WHOM ARE SARAWAK FARMERS' ASSOCIATION (SFA) MEMBERS, WERE SENT TO THIS AREA BY THE CLANDESTINE COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION (CCO) TO ORGANIZE A MILITANT GROUP. THIS GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED UNDER THE COVER OF THE SFA AND CONSISTS AT PRESENT OF 110 PERSONS, 40 OF WHOM ARE CHINESE AND 70 KEDAYANS. THREE BOXES OF HAND GRENADES ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THIS GROUP BY BOAT FROM BRUNEI AND SUBSEQUENTLY HIDDEN. IN THE COURSE OF THIS OPERATION A LETTER FROM ONE OF THE CHINESE ARRESTED WAS FOUND. THE LETTER WAS INTENDED FOR DISPATCH TO SINGKAWANG VIA KUCHING AND APPARENTLY ASKED FOR A SECOND SHIPMENT OF HAND GRENADES. IT IS REPORTED THAT NO PERSONAL WEAPONS HAVE BEEN IMPORTED FOR THIS GROUP. THERE WAS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR THE TNKU FROM KEDAYANS IN THIS AREA IN DECEMBER 1962. THIS IS THE FIRST KNOWN INSTANCE OF THE RECRUITMENT OF NATIVES

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TO THE SFA AND OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN CHINESE AND NATIVES IN THE CCO'S PREPARATIONS FOR ARMED STRUGGLE.

F. RECENT REPORTS SHOW THAT DURING OCT AND NOV THERE HAS BEEN A RENEWED EXODUS OF CCO SUPPORTERS FROM THE FIRST DIVISION TO WEST KALIMANTAN. SOME ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE TRAVELED BY SEA. IN THIS CONTEXT IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT A NOV EDITION OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SFA STATED THAT THE ARMED STRUGGLE "IS NOW MOST IMMINENT" AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT VICTORY WAS ASSURED.

G. A RELIABLE SOURCE HAS REPORTED THAT THE NINE INDONESIANS WHO WERE WITH THE CCO MILITANT GROUP IN THE BINATANG-SAREKEI AREA OF THIRD DIVISION (SEE PARA III B OF FSS 13635 (TDCS-3/564,936) HAD ARRIVED THERE ON 9 SEPT, ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND HAND GRENADES, AND HAD SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN MILITARY TRAINING TO SFA MEMBERS. THE SAME SOURCE ALLEGES THAT THE CCO IN THE SAME AREA HAVE BEEN MANUFACTURING ELECTRICALLY OPERATED ANTI PERSONNEL MINES FROM LOCALLY AVAILABLE MATERIALS.

8. MALAYSIA--SABAH.

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AN INDONESIAN ARRESTED IN TAWAU ON 14 NOV HAS ADMITTED UNDER INTERROGATION THAT HE IS AN INDONESIAN POLICE CONSTABLE FROM TARAKAN. HE HAD BEEN SENT TO TAWAU BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE BULONGAN/BERAU DISTRICT TO CONTACT ANOTHER INDONESIAN POLICEMEN WHO IS CLEARLY IDENTICAL WITH THE JAVANESE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED AS THE PERSON WHO PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BARISAN PEMBRONTAKAN RAKJAT SABAH IN MID SEPT '63 (SEE PARA IV OF FSS 13635 (TDCS-3/564,936).) HE WAS TO REPORT BACK TO TARAKAN ON THE STATE OF READINESS OF THIS ORGANIZATION. THE CHIEF OF POLICE WOULD THEN DECIDE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SUPPLY OF HAND GRENADES TO BE SENT TO THE ORGANIZATION IN TAWAU.

9. SOUTH VIETNAM MILITARY.

A. THE VIET CONG FAILED TO REACT DURING THE THREE DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL COUP D'ETAT ON 1 NOV AND IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT THEY HAD LITTLE OR NO IDEA THAT A COUP WAS IMMINENT. DURING THE NEXT 7-10 DAYS VIET CONG ACTIVITY INCREASED CONSIDERABLY IN THE SHAPE OF UNCOORDINATED ATTACKS

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MAINLY AGAINST CIVIL GUARD POSTS, STRATEGIC HAMLETS AND WATCHTOWERS. ACTIVITY HAS NOW DROPPED TO A MORE NORMAL LEVEL.

B. ONE SERIOUS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, 120 MILES SOUTH WEST OF SAIGON, ON 13 NOV WHEN A CIVIL GUARD COMPANY WAS AMBUSHED BY THE VIET CONG. GOVT LOSSES ARE REPORTED AS 55 KILLED, 34 WOUNDED, 6 MISSING AND 71 WEAPONS LOST. VIET CONG CASUALTIES ARE REPORTED AS 607 KILLED (SIC) AND 4 WEAPONS CAPTURED. NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE YET AVAILABLE.

C. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS INCIDENT INDICATES THE QUICKER AND STRONGER REACTION WHICH THE NEW GOVT WILL TAKE AGAINST THE VIET CONG ATTACKS IN THE FUTURE.

10. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.

11. *(HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: MISSING PORTION WILL BE DISSEMINATED ONLY IF IT MATERIALLY AFFECTS THE SENSE OF THIS REPORT.)

ACTION: ACSI, NAVY, AF, JCS, OSD
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