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FOR RUSK AND HARRIMAN FROM LODGE

1. THIS REFERS TO CAS CABLES FVS-9753 AND FVS-9750.
2. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SORT OF ASSASSINATION RUMOR ON THE AVERAGE OF ABOUT ONE IN EVERY TEN DAYS SINCE I HAVE BEEN HERE, AND WE HAVE BRUSHED THEM ASIDE. BUT THE RUMORS IN ABOVE-MENTIONED CABLES ARE SUFFICIENTLY BELIEVABLE TO WARRANT FRESH STATE-DEFENSE PLANNING ON TWO MAJOR POINTS:
 - A. IF I AM ASSASSINATED IN THE WAY INDICATED IN ABOVE REPORTS, THE DEED WILL IN EFFECT HAVE BEEN DONE BY THE GVN RPT GVN, HOWEVER MUCH THEY ATTEMPT TO DISGUISE IT, SINCE THEY WILL HAVE INSTIGATED THE MOB AND WILL HAVE DENIED US THE POLICE PROTECTION WHICH THEY ARE TOTALLY CAPABLE OF GIVING US IN VIEW OF THE VERY LARGE POLICE FORCE IN SAIGON WHICH IS UNDER THEIR ABSOLUTE CONTROL. THIS WILL, THEREFORE, AUTOMATICALLY CONSTITUTE A RUPTURE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND MEANS THAT PRESENT ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING U.S. PRESENCE HERE WOULD BE FALSE. THIS WILL HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM, NOTABLY AS REGARDS EVACUATION AND THERE SHOULD BE FRESH CONTINGENCY PLANNING TO COVER THIS SITUATION.
 - B. IF I AM ASSASSINATED, A NEW SITUATION WOULD BE CREATED WHICH MIGHT GIVE US A CHANCE TO MOVE EFFECTIVELY FOR A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT USING METHODS WHICH WOULD NOW BE REJECTED BY U.S. AND WORLD OPINION, BUT WHICH WOULD THEN BECOME ACCEPTABLE. THERE SHOULD BE STATE-DEFENSE PLANNING ON THIS.

SECRET

3. FOR DIEM
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-2- 676, OCTOBER 10, 5 PM FROM SAIGON

3. FOR DIEM AND NHU EVEN TO BE THINKING OF MY ASSASSINATION IS SO UNBELIEVABLY IDIOTIC THAT A REASONABLE PERSON WOULD REJECT IT OUT OF HAND. BUT NHU IS APPARENTLY PLEASED WITH HIS RAIDS ON THE BUDDHIST PAGODAS LAST SUMMER AND IS SAID TO BE ANNOYED WITH ME FOR HAVING ADVISED HIM TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR AWHILE. ALSO HE IS REPORTED TO BE SMOKING OPIUM. FOR ALL THESE REASONS MY ASSOCIATES HERE, WHOSE EXPERIENCE ANTEDATES MINE, CONSIDER ASSASSINATION TO BE A REAL POSSIBILITY. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS COMES AS NO SURPRISE, AS I REALIZED THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS WHEN I ACCEPTED THIS POST.

4. I HOPE TO HAVE THE ENTRANCE GATES TO THE BUILDING CLOSED WHEN CROWD BEGINS TO GATHER AND FOR THE MARINES TO THROW TEAR GAS FROM INSIDE TO PREVENT CROWD FROM BREAKING THE GATES DOWN. IF THE CROWD TRIES TO ENTER THE BUILDING BY THROWING LADDERS OR OTHER CATWALKS FROM THE CHINESE HOUSE NEXT DOOR OVER TO OUR OUTSIDE BALCONIES, WE WILL TRY TO THROW THE LADDERS OFF AND USE TEAR GAS THERE, TOO. I PLAN IMMEDIATE PROTEST TO GVN, EITHER BY TELEPHONE OR VIA MACV RPT MACV. BUT I PLAN NO RPT NO SHOOTING.

5. AM IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH MACV.

6. I HAVE INSTRUCTED CAS ACTING STATION CHIEF TO HAVE HIS AGENT TELL SOURCE THAT IF GVN AUTHORITIES MOUNT SUCH AN OPERATION, AMERICAN RETALIATION WILL BE PROMPT AND AWFUL BEYOND DESCRIPTION. SOURCE WILL BE INVITED TO EXAMINE RECORD OF U. S. MARINES IN PACIFIC DURING WW II RPT WW II AND ASK HIMSELF CANDIDLY WHETHER GVN WISHES TO HAVE SUCH A HORRIBLE AND CRUSHING BLOW DESCEND ON THEM.

GP-2

LODGE

JVC/27

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