

SECRET

The Ambassador

September 4, 1963

Rufus Phillips

Information from a Reliable Vietnamese Journalist in Contact with
Colonel Huong, Chief of Staff at the Presidency

On 3 September, Colonel Huong said that now Nhu was extremely happy and confident. On 3 September Nhu told Huong that the dangerous period was over. Kennedy's TV statement meant, in effect, that the U. S. has backed down. Nhu said the opposition had no troops or guts. The U. S. was only concerned about the military situation. So long as he (Nhu) could show progress militarily, the U. S. would back him. Nhu was not concerned about Tri Quang, saying he was bought by the U. S. long ago. By rumors and word-of-mouth spreading the story that Quang was "bought," Nhu said he would undercut Tri Quang's position.

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