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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: Conversation with Major Cuuc, September 17, 1965

Declassified per State / CJA
Authority EO 12356
Name: , Chief Declasser
Rec. Mkt. Date: 1988

1. Received a telephone call from Major Cuuc, whom I did not remember, asking me to come to see him. He turned out to be a regular ARVN officer who was one of the leading organizer's of Nhu's Republican Youth.

2. It appears that he and forty other officers have been in limbo without pay since 1 November 1963. The GVN won't take them back on active duty or demobilize them. The group includes Lt. Col. Hoang former prov. chief of Binh Thuan, Lt. Col. Khanh, former province chief of Ninh Thuan, Lt. Duung, formerly Nhu's military aide. According to Cuuc most of the group would prefer to return to active and to take a combat command to continue the fight. He said he was in pretty dire economic straits and was being helped by the catholics for whom he wrote articles for one of their publications.

3. He blamed his status on the Vien Hoa Dao and said it was anti-catholic discrimination. He complained bitterly about the fact that many lower ranking members of the Can Luu suffered injustices and poverty while other Generals who had been members were free and enriching themselves at the expense of their country.

4. I told him that I would look into his problem and if he and others were being unfairly treated that I would try in a personal way to bring it to the attention of any friends I might have in the Government. I said that I was interested in helping any Vietnamese who honestly and truly wished to help his country.

5. Comment: I have asked Bernie to check out Cuuc with Vo Van Hai. If this is an authentic case of injustice, I will bring it up personally with Bui Diem to see what the problem is.

LG: RCPPhillips:pag
September 22, 1965

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