

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

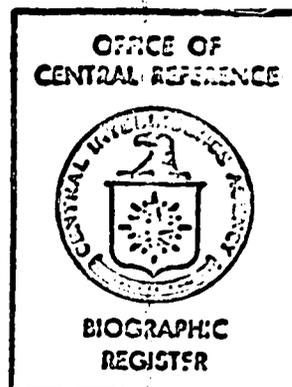
BUI DIEM

Editor of the Saigon Post

Bui Diem, editor of the Saigon Post and a former member of the Council of Notables, has been involved in Vietnamese politics as a leading member of the nationalistic and non-Communist Dai Viet Party. Active in Buddhist affairs, Bui Diem has actively opposed the government headed by Prime Minister Tran Van Huong with the charge that it was anti-Buddhist. In discussions with US officials, Bui Diem has envisioned a stabilization of the Vietnamese government through a strong political movement which would include all the major non-Communist factions. In October 1964 he was identified as one of the organizers of the Buddhist Political Party. Reports of January 1965 state that he is a member of the group led by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Phan Huy Quat, which has advocated the formation of a military-civilian council which would be entrusted with the task of convening a national convention.

Bui Diem was born on 1 October 1923 in Phuly, North Vietnam, and he is reported to hold a certificate in mathematics. In 1951 Diem was identified as a member of the National Popular Party and as editor of the newspaper Quoc Dan. At that time he was elected to preside as Secretary of a meeting in Hanoi which met to elect the preparatory committee for North Vietnam to act on Bao Dai's proposal for the creative of consultative assemblies. He served as Director of the cabinet in the Ministry of Defense in 1953, and he was deputy chief of the Vietnamese delegation to the military negotiations with France in April 1954. In 1957 Bui Diem was in charge of the Tan Viet film company. There is little information on his political activity during this period, but he probably maintained his activity in the Dai Viet, which was opposed to the policies of the Ngo Dinh regime. Bui Diem became publisher of the English-language newspaper, the Saigon Post, which appeared after the overthrow of the Diem government in November 1963. He was also named to the short-lived Council of Notables in December 1963 and was elected Deputy Secretary General of the council.

Bui Diem is well known among Vietnamese intellectuals and among US officials in Saigon. He is regarded as a leading figure in the Vietnamese business and newspaper community, and he has excellent contacts among influential Vietnamese. From June to August 1964 Bui Diem was in the United States traveling under the auspices of US State Department leader grant. Although he was described as charming and grateful for the grant, his decision to avoid planned sponsorship



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BUI DIEM (cont.)

and appointments aroused the suspicions that he used his trip to the United States to carry out his own political activities in an effort to determine the American attitude toward Vietnam and to lobby with persons of influence within the government for greater support in Vietnam.

Bui Diem is married and has two children. He speaks English fluently.

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29 January 1965

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