

Leading Figures at Time of Coup

Henry Cabot Lodge

Ambassador to South Vietnam, 1963-64 and 1965-67 . . . now, since June, 1970, President Nixon's special envoy to the Vatican . . . born July 5, 1902, Nahant, Mass. . . . graduated from Harvard, 1924 . . . worked for The Boston Transcript and The New York Herald Tribune . . . two terms in Massachusetts Legislature, 1933-36 . . . defeated James M. Curley for Senate seat, 1936 . . . took leave of absence to serve in Army during World War II . . . won re-election, then resigned from Senate to return to Army duty . . . won Bronze Star, Croix de Guerre, others . . . elected to Senate again, 1946 . . . influential in persuading Eisenhower to seek Presidency and served as his campaign manager . . . lost Senate seat, 1952, to John F. Kennedy . . . appointed U. S. representative at the U.N., 1953 . . . G.O.P. vice-presidential candidate, 1960 . . . U. S. Ambassador, Saigon, August, 1963-July 1964; August, 1965-67 . . . chief U. S. negotiator, Paris peace talks, 1969 . . . Ambassador at Large, 1967-68 . . . Ambassador to Germany, 1968-69 . . . chief U. S. negotiator, Paris peace talks, January-December, 1969.

Paul Donal Harkins

United States commander, Vietnam, 1962-64; now adviser to American Security Council, private "research" group, Boston. Born Boston, May 15, 1904 . . . graduated U.S. Military Academy, 1929 . . . deputy chief of staff, Western Task Force, North African invasion, 1942 . . . deputy chief of staff, Third Army then 15th Army . . . a protégé of Gen. George S. Patton Jr. . . . commandant of cadets, West Point, 1948-51 . . . chief of staff, Eighth Army, Korea, 1951-53 . . . commander, 45th and 24th Infantry Divisions, Korea, December, 1953-54 . . . Pentagon service, 1954-57 . . . deputy commander, chief of staff U.S. Army Forces, Pacific, 1960-62 . . . first commander, Military Assistance Command, Saigon, 1962-64 . . . consistently optimistic in his assessment of war . . . strong supporter of Ngo Dinh Diem . . . has said "biggest" U.S. mistake in Vietnam "was when we stopped backing Diem" . . . during his tenure, had sharp differences with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge . . . retired 1964 . . . moved to Dallas, 1965.

Ngo Dinh Diem

Premier, South Vietnam, 1954-55; President, 1955-63, until death during overthrow Nov. 1, 1963. Born Quangbinh, near Hue, Jan. 3, 1901 . . . graduated from School of Administration, Hue . . . entered civil service . . . rose to district administrator . . . Minister of Interior in Cabinet of Emperor Bao Dai, 1933 . . . resigned on learning Government was controlled by French . . . declared subversive by French in 1942, he fled to Saigon, 1944 . . . refused Japanese offer to head puppet government, March, 1945 . . . refused offer to work with Hanoi regime, 1945 . . . began seeking some autonomy for Vietnam . . . fled country, 1950 . . . during exile, 1951-52, lived at Maryknoll Seminary, Lakewood, N.J., 1951-52 . . . returned Saigon as Premier in Bao Dai Government, 1954 . . . elected President in referendum making Vietnam a republic, 1955 . . . won second five-year term 1961 . . . survived several coup attempts . . . shot to death after accepting safe-conduct offer.

Ngo Dinh Nhu

Headed secret apparatus of Ngo Dinh Diem Government, 1954-63 until his death during overthrow of Diem, his brother, on Nov. 1. Born about 1911 near Hue into distinguished Roman Catholic family. . . one of five brothers in Ngo family. . . was chief archivist. Indochina library, early forties. . . married, 1943. . . separated from family during war. . . he and wife organized support for return from exile of Ngo Dinh Diem. . . Nhu ran a newspaper, developed philosophy of "personalism"—blend of religions and autocracy—that was said to be pervasive influence on Diem's rule. . . when Diem assumed power, Nhu became known as an "Oriental Richelieu". . . controlled secret police. . . he and wife were said to be strong anti-Buddhist influence on Diem . . . Mr. Nhu was quiet, persuasive . . . Nhus prime target for discontent that led to overthrow of Diem regime . . . Mr. Nhu shot to death with brother as they were leaving the country under safe-conduct.