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Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files
Nations of Southeast Asia in the 1960s

CHINA

Subject-Numeric Files, February 1963–1966

Part 1: Political, Governmental, and National Defense Affairs, February 1963–1966

These U.S. State Department files on China for February 1963–1966 reproduced here in *Part 1* give scholars firsthand American diplomatic reporting on the precarious Asian arena—and invaluable insight into delicate U.S. policy negotiations through the height of the cold war in Asia.

U.S. policy toward China during President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration remained essentially what it had been during the Kennedy and Eisenhower administrations—nonrecognition of the People's Republic of China (PRC), support for Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government and its possession of the China seat in the United Nations, and a ban on trade and travel to the PRC. But the international consensus that had once supported U.S. policy was eroding during this time period. Although President Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk, preoccupied with Vietnam, resisted changes in the United States's China policy, Johnson privately acknowledged that the United States would eventually have to recognize the PRC. The collection covers China's growing nuclear power, the issue of PRC entry into the United Nations, the attempt to contain Chinese communism, and the incompatible objectives of the United States and the Chinese Nationalists.

*41 reels with printed guide. ISBN 1-55655-838-4
Microfilm available now; guide forthcoming.*

HONG KONG

Internal Affairs and Foreign Affairs, 1960–January 1963

Material in this segment of the Central Files on Hong Kong provides detailed coverage of the myriad problems associated with the “two Chinas,” the remnants of British colonialism in revolutionary Asia, and the Hong Kong economic and financial miracle.

This 12,000-page collection opens new avenues of research in a wide range of academic disciplines. It will prove invaluable to researchers studying Asian history, cold war history, military history, U.S. history, world history, or public policy.

Among the topics covered are water supply

problems, corruption in Hong Kong government, Hong Kong's anti-Japanese campaign, the Wilfred Wong case, conflict over textile exports, rumors of Communist gold sales, and much more.

*7 reels. ISBN 1-55655-846-5.
Microfilm and guide available now.*

INDONESIA

Internal Affairs and Foreign Affairs, 1960–January 1963

By 1960, Indonesia had achieved independence from the Dutch and had set up a parliamentary democracy with Achmed Sukarno as president. But there was little in the diverse cultures of Indonesia or their historical experience to prepare them for democracy, and the country remained deeply divided by ethnic, regional, class, and religious differences. The Dutch had done practically nothing to prepare the colony for self-government.

Among the many topics covered in the collection are Sukarno's “Guided Democracy” program, his lack of action against a bad economy, trouble with the Netherlands, and a perceived threat from Malaysia.

*20 reels with printed guide. ISBN 1-55655-836-8.
Microfilm and guide available now.*

LAOS

Internal and Foreign Affairs, 1960–January 1963

In the more than 28,000 pages of declassified U.S. State Department material collected here, you'll find succeeding years of contest and bloodshed—as this landlocked nation, buffeted by neighboring Cambodia, China, Burma, Thailand, and Vietnam, emerged as a major battleground of the cold war. Always on guard against the Communist threat, American diplomats tracked the rise of the Pathet Lao and infiltration of North Vietnamese; analyzed divisive Nationalist groups; and watched with concern the transformation of Laos from a neutral state, as agreed to at the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina, to one torn by cold war forces.

By 1960, Laos had fallen into political lawlessness and quickly found itself on the brink of full-blown civil war. With material in this collection, you can track growing unrest among the country's more than 40 ethnic groups and analyze how foreign involvement in Laos and the peculiarities of cold war politics

(Over, please)

intensified the country's civil conflict. The material covers the rightist-neutralist-leftist division and efforts to get the parties to form a coalition government.

*36 reels. ISBN 1-55655-810-4.
Microfilm and guide available now.*

VIETNAM

Internal and Foreign Affairs, 1960–January 1963

With over 50 nationalities and languages, nine ethnic minorities, and at least three distinct geographic regions, Vietnam was challenging terrain. American diplomats and other officials struggled to understand its multicultural and multifaceted political and economic structure. While not unbiased, they were highly trained observers. Their insight, collected here, offer a comprehensive picture of early 1960s Vietnam.

The documents record the vision of American military leaders and advisers with diplomatic reporting on Kennedy administration attempts to stabilize the deteriorating economic, political, and military situation in South Vietnam. There is documentation of repressive measures used by both North and South against their respective populations, the extent of external aid to both DRV and RVN, and efforts by both to seek worldwide recognition. Discussion of the U.S. containment policy of the early 1960s and Vietnam's place in the era's "domino" theory shed light on U.S. cold war strategy.

The records of the International Control Commission (ICC) are included in the State Department's Central Files for Indochina and in this collection, providing observations of numerous countries on the situation in Vietnam and Laos.

*24 reels with printed guide. ISBN 1-55655-748-5.
Microfilm and guide available now.*

VIETNAM

Subject-Numeric Files, February 1963–1966

Part 1: Political, Governmental, and National Defense Affairs, February 1963–1966

With material in this collection, scholars gain an intimate perspective on Saigon leading up to, during, and in the aftermath of the August 1963 Buddhist crisis. The records cover the Kennedy administration's outrage over Diem's repressive policies; U.S. indication to South Vietnamese military leaders that Washington would support a new military government; the November 1963 assassination of Diem and his brother Nhu in a military coup; and General Duong Van Minh's assumption of power.

Documentation in this collection outlines the activities of the various political parties and front organizations in North and South Vietnam, correspondence of pro-Western and Communist political leaders, and North Vietnam's response to the American military escalation of the war. The files cover

- Hanoi's 1963 decision to escalate the struggle in spite of the risk;
- establishment of a liberated zone from the Central Highlands to the edge of the Mekong Delta in 1964; and
- strengthening of the People's Liberation Armed Forces (PLAF), 1964 U.S. airstrikes against North Vietnamese naval bases, and passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

*91 reels. ISBN 1-55655-837-6.
Microfilm available now; guide forthcoming.*

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