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 Interagency Security Classification
 Appeals Panel, E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3)
 ISCAP Appeal No. 2018-100
 Declassification Date: September 9, 2024

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6 November 1963

BACKGROUND DATA, SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The 12-man Military Executive Committee formed on 5 November is the highest authority in South Vietnam, formalizing the control of the coup leaders over the provisional government headed by Premier Tho, the former Vice President.

Chairman:	Maj.Gen. Duong Van Minh (Big Minh)
Vice Chairman:	Maj.Gen. Tran Van Don
Vice Chairman:	Maj.Gen. Ton That Dinh
Economic Coord:	Maj.Gen. Tran Van Minh (Little Minh)
Foreign Affairs:	Maj.Gen. Le Van Kim
Military Affairs:	Maj.Gen. Tran Thien Khiem
Security Affairs:	Brig.Gen. Pham Xuan Chieu
Political Affairs:	Brig.Gen. Do Mau
at large:	Maj.Gen. Le Van Nghiem
	Brig.Gen. Mai Huu Xuan
	Brig.Gen. Nguyen Huu Co
	Brig.Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu

2. Three generals, in addition, have key jobs in the 14-man provisional cabinet (two of them in both bodies):

Defense:	Maj. Gen. Tran Van Don
Security:	Maj. Gen. Ton That Dinh
Information:	Brig. Gen Tran Tu Oai

3. Aside from Tho and Rural Affairs Minister Tran Lu Quang, another holdover from the Diem regime, the civilian members of the Provisional Government are essentially little-known technicians, most of them with civil service tenure dating back to the French colonial era. Aside from receptivity to French influence and example, the cabinet is distinguished by being predominantly Buddhist and drawn from southern Vietnam (in contrast to Diem's preference for officials of central or northern origin.)

4. A Consultative Council is expected to be formed soon to draft a new constitution, prepare for general elections six

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months to two years hence, and handle matters normally put to the National Assembly, now disbanded.

5. Men to watch particularly in the new setup are Major General DINH and Brigadier General Mai Huu XUAN.

Dinh, 38, cocky, ambitious, reportedly unscrupulous and considered unbalanced by some of his fellow officers, is concurrently one of the two vice-chairmen of the ruling Military Executive Committee, Military Governor of Saigon, and Minister of Security (formerly Interior) in the cabinet. Moreover the military corps areas immediately north and south of Saigon are being taken over by ^{one} a general who was a divisional commander under Dinh in III Corps, and another who was Dinh's deputy there. Vietnamese military and civilian circles share our concern over Dinh.

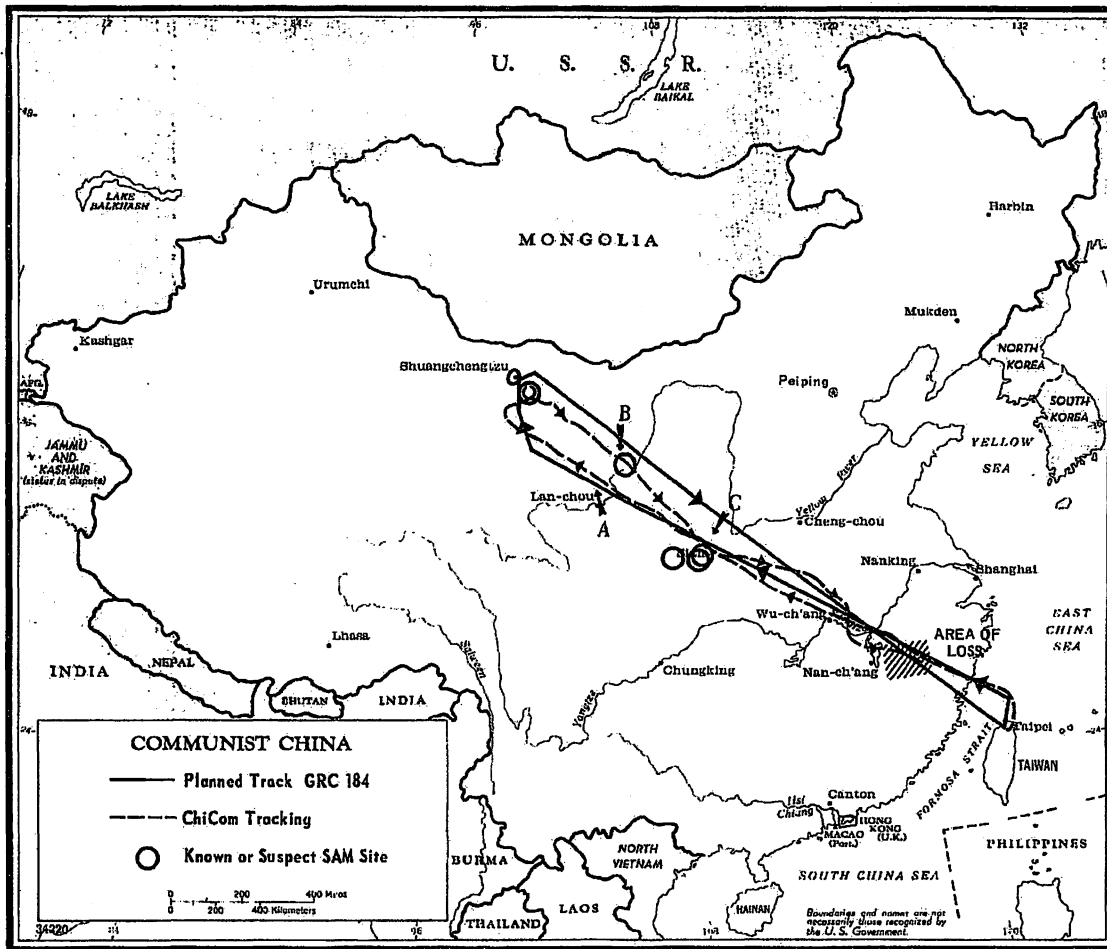
Xuan, 47, chief of the Military Security Service under Diem from 1954 to 1958m is again in charge of the police and intelligence communities. He has longtime French connections and is considered a French agent by many. He is carrying out a rapid purge of the security systems to remove Diem elements, and most of the replacements are old hands who worked with French intelligence.

6. Diem and Nhu apparently were given secret burial with religious rites in Saigon Monday. General Don says he and Big Minh paid their respects prior to the funeral. Other leading victims of the coup were former Special Forces Commander Le Quang TUNG, executed, (replaced by Maj.Gen.Le Van Nghiem from I Corps); and Navy commander Hu Tan ~~QUYEN~~ QUYEN, killed by a subordinate.

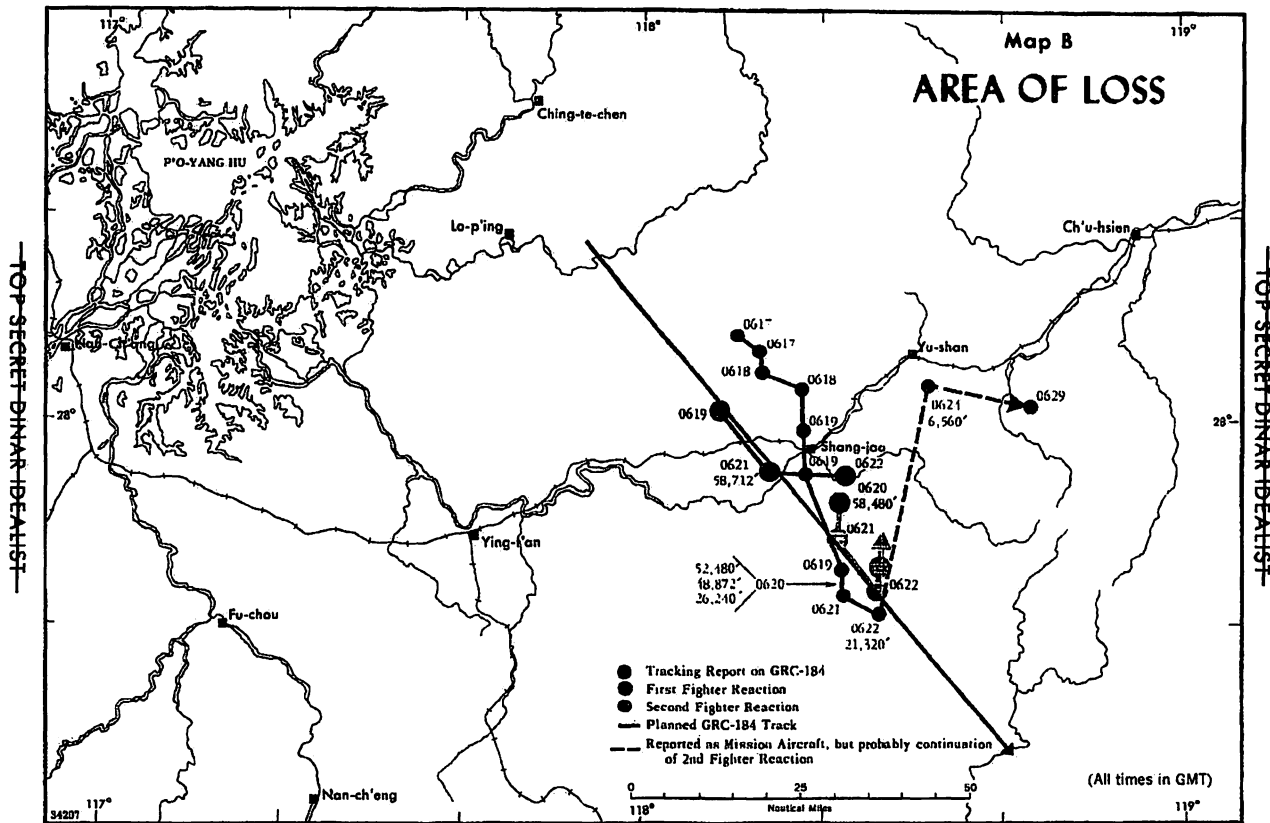
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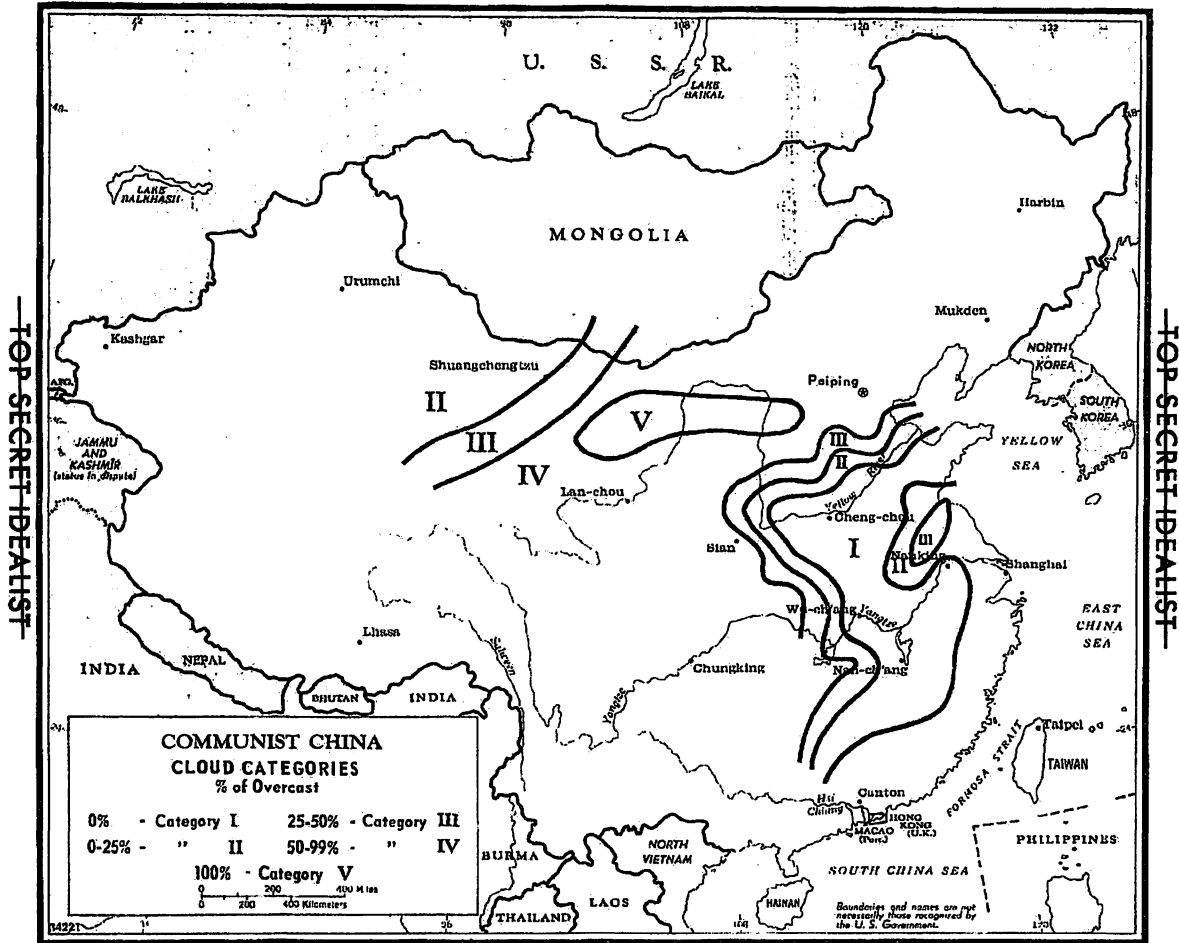
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Map A GRC 184 Planned Track compared to Approximate Track Flown



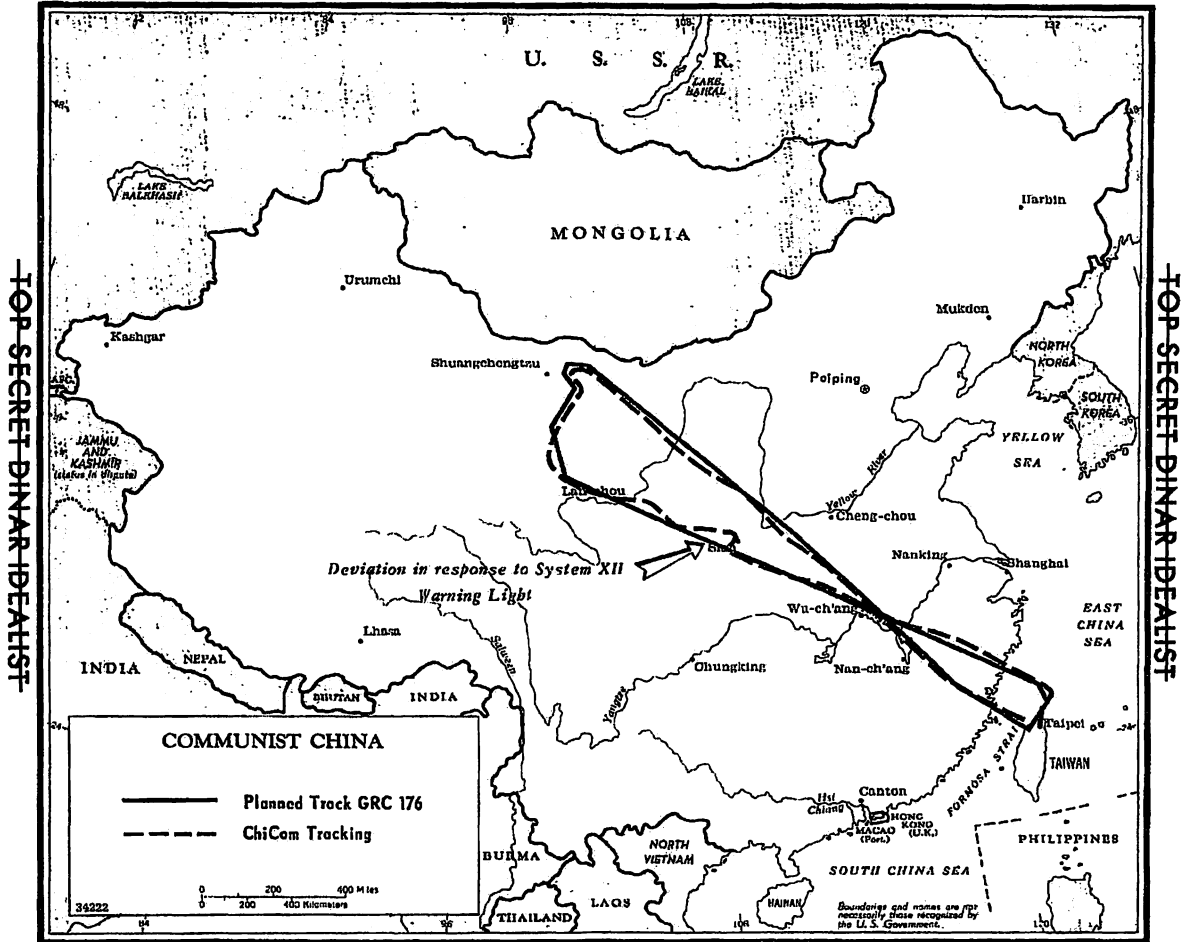


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Map C

GRC 184 Estimate of Actual Weather



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Map D For comparison: ~~SECRET~~ Planned and Actual Route