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OCI No. 0799/66

(43)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
3 April 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam

(As of 1:00 P.M. EST)

1. No major new developments have been reported on the political scene during the past few hours.

2. Late reports indicate that some 300 persons demonstrated today in Qui Nhon, capital of Binh Dinh Province in II Corps, demanding that the military get out of the government and that the US change its policies. There were oblique suggestions in the themes expounded that the war was being perpetuated for personal gain, and that the Buddhists might move against local province chiefs with forces which are "ready." A report from Ban Me Thuot, in Darlac Province, also indicates continuing unrest there, centering on the Buddhist demands and local issues, but with a careful effort to inform Americans that the issues are not against the US.

3. The Embassy in Saigon has now received reports [redacted] which substantiate government claims that demonstrators at last night's disturbances in Saigon shouted attacks against Buddhist Institute leaders Tam Chau and Ho Giac, along with cries of "Long Live Ho Chi Minh." It is not yet possible to tell whether this incident represents acts of defiance by Tri Quang followers among the Buddhists, involvement by the Viet Cong who have long accused Chau of being a US agent, or psychological warfare by anti-Buddhist elements. Chau reportedly has told Premier Ky that he had nothing to do with the demonstration.

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[redacted]  
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State Dept. review completed

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4. An anti-Communist and pro-American demonstration was staged today by about 500 Catholic youth in the town of Go Vap, near Saigon. There have been other recent reports that Catholics around Saigon were becoming restive over the Buddhist campaign and have begun scattering leaflets attacking the Buddhists and the Communists around the capital area. In Hue and Da Nang, leaflets are also reportedly being circulated in the name of the central Vietnam Nationalist (VNQDD) Party, indicating somewhat ambiguously the party's dissatisfaction with the present government but its determination to cooperate with allied nations and to defeat the Communists.

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[REDACTED] there is some information to indicate that the Viet Cong have set up municipal commands for major urban areas, similar to that reported around Saigon. This appears to reflect the Viet Cong determination over the past year to strengthen their assets around urban areas, but their capability is still believed to be somewhat limited in this respect.

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OCI No. 1127/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
3 April 1966

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam  
(As of 0900 EST)

1. After a meeting of the ruling Military Directorate this morning, Premier Ky publicly announced that troops would be sent to restore order in Da Nang. According to press reports, Ky stated that the demonstrations there had been organized by the Viet Cong, and also declared that Mayor Nguyen Van Man would be shot as a leader of the unrest. Mayor Man, appointed to his position a few months ago by former I Corps Commander General Thi, has given positive support to the current anti-government movement. All Vietnamese Air Force and commercial flights have been cancelled by Ky, who reportedly stated that the government would take action in Da Nang "very soon". No other details are as yet available.
2. The government's apparently imminent move on Da Nang represents a change of earlier contingency plans, which had called for an initial movement of troops to Hue, and then possibly to Da Nang. However, a recent assessment by I Corps Commander General Chuan that popular support for the anti-government movement in Da Nang was weaker than that in Hue may have contributed to the change in government plans.
3. The Congress of the Armed Forces, the supreme governing body composed of all Vietnamese general officers and other senior military commanders, also met in Saigon today. According to an official communique, the Congress decided to "call a political congress of the entire nation including representatives

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of political parties, religious and other groups. This congress would discuss the organization of a constituent body." This decision represents apparently another government proposal aimed at achieving some kind of consensus among civilian political and religious leaders concerning eventual civilian government. Earlier, the government had announced its intention to create a constitutional preparatory committee with representatives from the 48 elected provincial and municipal councils and an equal number of other appointees.

4. In Da Nang, an estimated 600 national police participated in an antigovernment parade this morning. Police representatives and other struggle group speakers later made the usual criticisms of Generals Thieu, Ky, and Co, but were careful to explain that the antigovernment movement was not anti-American. However, recent radiobroadcasts by Da Nang students have called for United Nations intervention to deal with alleged US interference with a demonstration there on 30 March. Students earlier had issued an ultimatum concerning the incident which has been disregarded by US officials.

5. Elsewhere in I Corps, the city of Hue was reported quiet today, although a radiobroadcast there expressed defiance of Premier Ky and his recently announced intentions in I Corps. Demonstrations were in progress elsewhere in Thua Thien Province and in Quang Tri city, and a strike was in effect in Nha Trang. In Da Lat, an estimated 1,000 students surrounded the municipal radio station during the day, and also moved into the Palace Hotel after it was evacuated by Americans. The removal of US personnel from this rest and recreation hotel had been one of the students' earlier demands. Police in Da Lat have reportedly told the students to clear the streets by 1800 (Vietnam time) at which time they will attempt to disperse any of those remaining.

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