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OCI No. 1131/66

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
5 April 1966

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam  
(As of 2:00 P.M. EST)

1. Da Nang was reported quiet during the evening hours of 5 April (Vietnam time), with no immediate prospect of fighting between pro and antigovernment troops there. Vietnamese Marines dispatched from Saigon last night will apparently remain at the air base for the time being, but will not attempt to enter the city. I Corps commander General Chuan, after conferring with Premier Ky today, is exerting his influence to maintain peace in the city, but there are conflicting reports concerning his ultimate loyalties. The two Ranger battalions moved to Da Nang appear to be under Chuan's control, and reportedly are being withdrawn. Thus far, Chuan appears to be urging moderation in order to avoid a head-on confrontation between the Saigon government and local dissident elements.

2. In Hue, the Vietnamese First Division commander reportedly announced his opposition to the Saigon government in a radiobroadcast today. The subsequent deployment of elements of the First Division near the city in anticipation of the arrival of troops from Saigon caused the withdrawal of US military advisors and air support from the division. As a precautionary measure, some US civilians in Hue and Quang Tri city are in the process of being air evacuated. According to late reports, I Corps commander General Chuan in Da Nang has been informed of these developments, and has promised to take urgent steps to calm the situation.

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3. It is not yet clear what the reaction of the antigovernment elements will be, now that Premier Ky has postponed the use of force to restore government authority in Da Nang. The government is apparently following up on its plan for convening a national political congress to discuss proposals for a civilian government. Meanwhile, Buddhist leaders have indicated their willingness to continue talks with the government to arrive at a political solution to the unrest, but do not appear to have altered their demands thus far. According to press reports, moderate Buddhist leader Tam Chau appeared to take a stronger stand than he has previously in a speech at the Buddhist Institute in Saigon this evening. For the first time, Chau reportedly called for a national assembly within three months, and declared that the people's "nonviolent" struggle was "just." In previous public statements, Chau has urged his followers to remain calm so that the government could ultimately fulfill its promises for a civilian government.

4. Elsewhere in Saigon this evening, various press accounts have reported that Buddhist student demonstrations continued beyond the 9:00 P.M. curfew. One Buddhist monk attempting to intercede between students and troops was reportedly knocked unconscious by a rifle butt. The US Embassy has reported that a few small groups were still holding out against police at 11:00 P.M., and that both the troops and the police had been forced to resort to tear gas and occasional volleys of small arms fire over the heads of the demonstrators.

5. There is no further information relating to press accounts which described the burning of the USIS library in Nha Trang. The library is co-located with the Vietnamese Information Service, which has been the object of conflict between government authorities and demonstrators during the past few days. It is not yet clear whether the reported burning and sacking of the building was a deliberate anti-American act, or whether it was the culmination of previous activity centering around the Vietnamese Information Service facility.

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6. Although the penetration and influence of the Viet Cong in the antigovernment movement remains somewhat obscure, the Viet Cong's Liberation Radio today broadcast a statement that the National Liberation Front is "ready to unite" with elements of the "rebel army" to achieve "independence, democracy, peace, and neutrality" in South Vietnam. The broadcast played up the anti-American overtones of the unrest, but also singled out some of those in the protest movement, including moderate Tam Chau, for criticism.

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OCI No. 1168/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
5 April 1966

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam

(As of 10:00 a.m. EST)

1. At 5:55 p.m. Saigon time, when Prime Minister Ky departed Da Nang, there was still no reported direct confrontation between the three emergency Vietnamese Marine battalions and antigovernment agitators in Da Nang. Before Ky left for Saigon, he announced in a speech that his previous appraisal that Hue and Da Nang were Communist held was incorrect. The press reports that while Ky was in Da Nang he conferred with Buddhist leaders before making his soft-line speech.

2. In Saigon, however, Buddhist students from the Buddhist Youth Association battled riot police for three hours before being dispersed. One of the demonstrators was wounded slightly by a shot from carbines which were being fired over their heads. A Vietnamese Ranger battalion moved to the Buddhist headquarters during the demonstration to enforce the 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. curfew imposed earlier in the day.

3. Demonstrations continued in Nha Trang, where the USIS library was reportedly burned and sacked, in Pleiku town, where there were unconfirmed reports of fighting between soldiers loyal and opposed to the government, and in Hue, where students reportedly demonstrated in front of the American advisory billet.

4. The commanding general of the 3rd US Marine Amphibious Force has ordered the evacuation to secure

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areas of all US advisers to tactical Vietnamese units in I Corps trouble spots. Eight civilians in Quang Tri city and 75 in Hue are also being air-evacuated to the marine base at Phu Bai. This is phase one of the contingency evacuation plan and does not include members of the consulate in Hue

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