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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
11 April 1966**

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

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

1. A Vietnamese newspaper publisher has told US Embassy officials that Buddhist Institute chairman Tam Chau today retired from all active participation in Institute affairs. Tam Chau reportedly did not give his prior approval to the press conference called yesterday by other Buddhist leaders, and he subsequently refused to attend. According to the publisher, Tam Chau will not engage in an open struggle with Tri Quang and other Buddhist leaders, although he disagrees with their policy.

2. In other developments relating to the Buddhists, [redacted]

[redacted] there is a major Buddhist effort underway among Saigon University students to oust members of the Student Union executive committee who have previously resisted Buddhist Institute pressures. The Buddhist Institute has scheduled a large meeting tonight with Thich Ho Giac, deputy chief of the Buddhist struggle force, as principal speaker.

[redacted]

ARMY review(s) completed.

State Dept. review completed

[redacted]

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there have been reports of increased restiveness even among senior officers favoring a "hard" approach to the Buddhist problem. Khang himself has previously said that he favors strong action in I Corps. His support to any change would be a key factor, since, as Saigon's military area commander, he is in charge of troops in the capital in addition to being the Vietnamese marine commander.

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
11 April 1966**

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Political Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 10:00 A.M.)

1. There have been no reports thus far of any public disturbances in Saigon, Hue, or Da Nang today.

2. According to US military officials, the two Vietnamese Marine battalions remaining at Da Nang Air Base are now scheduled to return to Saigon in US and Vietnamese aircraft early tomorrow. Press reports indicate that tensions have lessened considerably in the city, with many of the roadblock barricades no long guarded. A radiobroadcast by antigovernment elements in Da Nang this morning reflected some concern about this situation, and requested military unit commanders to control closely the movements of their troops.

3. In a conversation yesterday with a US official in Da Nang, newly appointed I Corps Commander General Ton That Dinh remarked that he planned to re-establish the government's authority generally by reducing tensions and by gradually gaining the confidence of various elements in the city. Dinh stated that he would give individuals in the anti-government movement a "second chance" in return for order and discipline. This policy would also be extended to the controversial mayor of Da Nang, Nguyen Van Man, who will be left in office at least for the time being in order to avoid creating a new local issue. Although Dinh appeared to be quite certain of quick success, the US official commented that the strong antigovernment broadcasts continuing from Da Nang are clear evidence that agitation there is by no means over.

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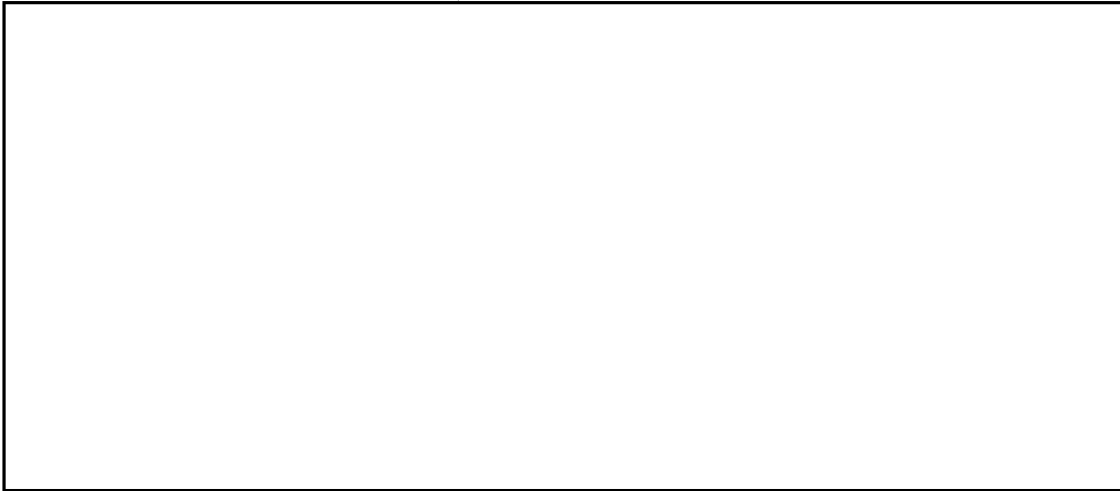
4. In Hue, recent activity has generally been directed towards opposing the government's National Political Congress, scheduled to be convened tomorrow in Saigon. The Thua Thien province chief told a US official that the four representatives from his province have refused to attend the congress. Today, a statement signed by the Hue municipal council and the Thua Thien provincial council was broadcast over the Hue radio condemning the government's congress and calling upon elected provincial and municipal council members throughout the country to do likewise. US officials have reported that the provincial and municipal councils of Thua Thien and Hue have also sent telegrams to the chairmen of other provincial councils asking them to boycott the congress. A demonstration and a general strike are scheduled in Hue tomorrow in opposition to the congress. In other antigovernment activity in the Hue area, a second group of "student suicide troops" held a graduation and oath-taking ceremony today. A total of 250 students have now completed the three days of military training involved.

5. Directorate Secretary-General Chieu, who is arranging the congress, is apparently concerned about the absence of delegates tomorrow, including representatives of political parties. Another Vietnamese official has reported to US Embassy officers that he has no idea of how many delegates will attend, although 150-170 invitations have been extended.

6. According to press reports, Buddhist leaders in Saigon today made public a telegram to Ambassador Lodge asking President Johnson to withdraw US support of the Ky government, and to endorse elections for a civilian government. The telegram was reportedly originated by the struggle force in Da Nang, and was reproduced and distributed by the Buddhist Institute in Saigon. Elsewhere in the capital, elements of the Vietnamese 7th Division are now in place to reinforce security. According to the US Embassy, these troops include a high proportion of Catholics and are considered a well disciplined force.

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8. Liberation Radio, a major Viet Cong propaganda instrument, today issued a lengthy condemnation of the government's forthcoming National Political Congress, labeling it a trick to deflect the direction of the revolutionary struggle movement. The statement singled out individuals and civilian political groups, including Thich Tam Chau, labor leader Tran Quoc Buu, and the Dai Viet and VNQDD parties as "country-sellers" and "American lackeys." The broadcast charged that General Westmoreland himself had ordered the appointment of the new I Corps Commander General Ton That Dinh, who was described as an adopted son of Ngo Dinh Diem and as an oppressor of the Buddhist struggle in 1963.

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