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OCI No. 1496/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
28 May 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 12:00 P.M. EDT)

Saigon

1. An estimated 5,000 Buddhists, demonstrated in Saigon this evening (Vietnam time), according to late press reports. Led by monks on bicycles, the demonstrators streamed out of the Vien Hoa Da pagoda and were met several blocks away by government security forces. The demonstrators were forced to scatter by tear gas used by the riot police. Banners seen in the crowd displayed anti-American sentiments calling Secretaries Rusk and McNamara "warmongers."

2. US officials report there were scattered demonstrations throughout the afternoon (Vietnam time), but all were of small scale and were contained without violence by government security forces. In one incident, police were confronted with a demonstrator with a grenade and when the police attempted to apprehend him, he fled into the security of a nearby pagoda. The police now have orders to shoot on the spot any demonstrator found armed with guns or grenades.

Hue

3. Official reports indicate the city was generally quiet as of 6:00 P.M. (Vietnam time) with ARVN units continuing to guard US installations. Radio Hue has announced the suspension of Buddha's birthday celebrations as a protest against the Thieu-Ky administration.

State Department review completed

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification
