

(Morgan Gandy)

SAIGON, 11220 (UPI)--Flamboyant Maj. Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi is eye one-man symbol of the paradoxical pitfalls and pathos of Vietnamese political intrigue.

This constant bubbling of <sup>FRANCIS</sup> Oriental Machevellian maneuvering is considered eye major obstacle to an effective American-South Vietnamese counter to the Communists, who are the best organized political <sup>MACHINE</sup> unit in the countryside.

The mustached Thi was dismissed Thursday from his command of the five northern provinces, where for the past two years he ruled with an unorthodox combination of <sup>AGE</sup> military eye- neo-warlord and eye political neo-mandarin. Yet, he was dismissed by the nine other genera <sup>Ruling</sup> ls of the military junta who were barely governing at all.

(More--Miller--BD)

first add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x at all x x x.

Thi was a sporadic author of political instability in Saigon, with an abortive coup in 1960, and several "Palace Coups;" yet his dismissal is considered to be only a prelude to more instability (more high-level military generals are expected to change) if not outright chaos (through student-civilian military committees now organizing demonstrations for Thi). BE

The ~~43~~<sup>42</sup>-year-old Thi general was the strongest individual, in terms of political popularity and appeal, but he was not as strong as the other nine ~~supreme leaders~~ collectively opposing him. Since Thi was the first general to fall from the junta in its nine-month existence, his ~~at~~ expulsion was indicated that ~~the~~ committee leadership was ~~no~~ longer sacred--<sup>NOR</sup> or even workable.

(More--Miller--ED)

The military junta, often called the Directorate or National Leadership Council, is the legal basis of the political regime. The junta elected Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky to head the executive branch of the government, but he is responsible to the junta itself.

This was born ~~in~~ <sup>LUNAR</sup> forty three years ago--in the ~~oriental~~ year of the Pig--in a small village ~~there~~ two miles outside of Hue, the former imperial capital and cultural center of the country. The son of a captain of the Imperial Guard, Thi lived, ~~remained~~ in the village, walked ~~to~~ two miles each day to school, rode water buffaloes around his father's small acreage and deliver ~~the~~ noontime rice meals to the laboring peasant<sup>s</sup>. Later, as a three-star general, he was an uncommon <sup>LEADER</sup> ~~man for~~ ~~maintaining~~ ~~t~~ maintaining the touch of the common man.

(More--Miller--JD)

third add--morgan gandy--saigon

X X X common man X X X.

During the French Indo-China War, he rose to the rank of sergeant; after the war, he joined the independent Vietnamese South Vietnamese army and learned to parachute be aye paratrooper. "When <sup>EYE</sup> you jump out of the plane, I feel as though I'm the highest man in the world," he once told this correspondent.

His boundless energy and military abilities caught the eye of newly installed President Ngo Dinh Diem, who appointed him in the mid-fifties as commander of the <sup>four</sup> ~~five~~ thousand man Airborne Brigade. He ~~did well~~ commanded well and President Diem considered him an "adopted son." - ALSO BORN in Hue

On Ne November 11, 1960 eleven, nineteen sixty, however, Thi became aye momentary central ~~parix~~ figure by shaping the ~~fr~~ shaping Vietnamese history, without changing it's trax structure. Then, he attacked and surrounded Diem's presidential palace and demanded the exile of the president's brother Nhu and wife Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu.

Diem's loyal chief of staff jumped over the palace fence in his ~~pjamas~~ <sup>2</sup> pajamas to negotiate with Thi. Thi ~~ye~~ yielded ~~by~~ but Diem reneged and crushed the paratrooper revolt, sending Thi fleeing to Cambodia. The chief of staff was <sup>Named</sup> Nguyen Khanh.

(More--Miller--BD)

fourth add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x nguyen khanh x x x.

The abortive coup, however, indicated one important factor--  
Dien was losing support even of his loyal <sup>OFF. CGRS</sup> ~~generals~~ born and raised  
in his own hometown of Hue. ~~But~~ Dien did not realize it but  
the Communists did. Thirty nine days after the ~~cou~~ <sup>COUP ATTEMPT</sup> on December  
twenty--the Communists officially proclaimed the provisional  
provisional birth of the National Front for the Liberation of  
South Vietnam.

Three years later, Thi <sup>mysteriously</sup> returned from exile as a supporter  
of ex-chief of staff <sup>but GEN PRIME MINISTER</sup> Nguyen Khanh, who had ~~been~~ crushed his <sup>Thi's</sup>  
abortive ~~coup nineteen sixty abortive~~ coup. Khanh appointed <sup>Thi</sup>  
commander of the First Corps area, which included ~~Thi's hometown~~  
<sup>of</sup> Hue. Slowly, Thi--and Vietnam--changed from supporting Khanh  
to indirect <sup>NG HIM;</sup> ~~opposition~~ Thi soon became Khanh's rival for support  
of the Buddhi pro-neutralist Buddhist organization, and the American  
policymakers.

On February nineteen nineteen ~~fi~~ <sup>62</sup> sixtyfive, Thi, obtaining  
~~both~~ American, ~~Buddh~~ Buddhist and other parties' support, spearheaded  
~~i~~ in a secret meeting the ~~revolt of~~ <sup>the</sup> mutiny of the generals  
against Khanh, then commander-in-chief of the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

(More--Miller--DE BD)



sixth add--morgan gandy--saigon

*Conceivably Could*  
X X X ~~is~~ X X X.

Thi was aye revolutionary, of eighteenth century ~~ven~~ vintage; yet, if he was behind the times, he was ahead of his country-- and American policymakers. Beginning with his nineteen sixty a bortive coup, Thi consistently launched aye one-man crusade against corruption and nepotism within the government. Ironically, the day he was dismissed, the Saigon government in aye behind-the-scenes move began nullifying it's own decision to execute a Chinese millionaire convicted of war profiteering.

In July, 1964, ~~This~~ Thi captured the first North Vietnamese prisoners in the South and promptly declared Hanoi ~~had~~ "invaded." ~~From~~ American generals ~~could~~ contradicted him. Today, 40,000 United States Marines are fighting in his same corps area.

(More--Miller--BD)

seventh add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x corps area x x x

Thi <sup>once</sup> could curse <sup>of</sup> with eye sergeant's venom when he found Montagnard children starving in an isolated hamlet.

"You either feed them or shoot them," Thi ordered eye captain. "These people are dying; ~~it doesn't matter if you die fast or die slow.~~ it does not matter if you die fast or die slow."

Thi and the forty thousand American Marines in his ~~first~~ first corps area ~~are~~ <sup>HAD</sup> were the only joint "Vietnamese-American" team in the country that has ~~systematically~~ systematically begun the "people-to-people" program of securing and pacifying the rural villages. The American Marines, delighted to find a Vietnamese <sup>GENERAL</sup> as tough as they are, <sup>were</sup> ~~are currently~~ flabbergasted at his dismissal.

The ~~dear~~ scheduled departure of Thi from Vietnam's political scene illustrates the continuing atomization of political power and the ~~secondary~~ <sup>ascendancy</sup> ascendancy of ~~the~~ <sup>2</sup> the half-authority of the Saigon government. For, now, as when ~~he~~ <sup>HE</sup> he sprung his abortive coup five years ago, Thi was not out of step with ~~the~~ <sup>WAS</sup> the Saigon regime, as the official accusation reads. It ~~is~~ <sup>THAT</sup> that the island of Saigon has consistently been out of step with ~~the~~ <sup>VIETNAM, AND</sup> the country side, now held predominantly in the hands of the Communists.

(Endit--Miller--BD)