

(Morgan Gandy)

SAIGON, 16150, (UPIS)--The dissident Buddhist-inspired
struggle committees in the ~~five~~ ^{SEIZED} northern provinces have temporarily
~~seized~~ ^{at least twenty two} political prisoners--^{PROV} province
chiefs, ^{CIVIL SERVANTS} district chiefs and ~~village chiefs~~ ^{loyal to the Saigon}
government.

^{DURING THE PAST WEEK,}
Some of these prisoners were ~~being~~ ^{were} politically
intimidated; some ~~were~~ ^{were} beaten; ~~the brother~~ ^{WAS.} of one
~~province chief~~ was shot in the leg. Some of the persons, once
~~released, request and received protection from the~~
~~American Marines, American military advisors and the American~~
~~Central Intelligence Agency specialists in the area, informed~~
~~American sources disclosed.~~

^{dISTRESS,} "The whole American community in Danang is in a state of
~~panic,~~ "one ~~amex~~ ^{AMERICAN} source explained. "They don't

know where this is going to lead us--and ~~certainly~~ ^{THERE'S A TOTAL POWER VACUUM UP THERE NOW} the political
turbulence ~~is~~ ^{is not} going to stop. This last month
of political disorder up there has set the American Marine-Vietnamese
^{MILITARY-POLITICAL} government/pacification program back at least six months."

(More--Miller--ED)

first add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x six months x x x

Denang (pop. 165,000), Vietnam's second largest city situated ~~four~~ three hundred fifty miles northve Saigon, is the headquarters of the Vietnamese first corps and of the ~~American~~ ~~fourty~~ ^{forty eight} thousand strong American Marine contingent. The city, which Prime Minister Nguyen ~~can~~ Cao Ky said was in "Communist hands" two weeks ago, has been ~~the~~ eye rebel hotspot of anti-government strikes, shop lockouts, and demonstrations, ~~which~~ including ^{IN WHICH} some ~~with~~ central government civil servants, ~~police~~ police and troops ^{PARTICIPATED} ~~in it.~~ ~~them.~~

The new wave of political intimidation--called "the terror of the saffron robes (of the Buddhist monks)"--is considered as ^{constant} destructive as--and eye counterpart to--the political assassinations and terrorism of the Viet Cong guerrillas.

(More--Miller--BD)

Vietnamese government sources in Saigon believe the new wave of political intimidation by the Struggle Committees is Communist-influenced, if not Communist-inspired, even though NUMBERS ~~some~~ non-Communists have joined the demonstrations, government sources believe they are "tools" of the Communist elements.

Diplomatic sources believe the ~~nucleus~~ nucleus of the Struggle Committees ~~same~~ same corresponds to the same group that lead the National Salvation Committees in August-September of nineteen sixty four, when ~~students~~ Catholic and Buddhist student mobs tossed the urban centers into anarchy with violent street fighting. At that time, the National Salvation Committees in the northern provinces ~~and shops~~ burned the houses of Catholic merchants in ~~the~~ the coastal city of Qui Nhon and hanged a Vietnamese anti-Communist with barbed wire ~~on~~ ^{from} a tree in the center of Danang city. American sources at that time called the National Salvation Committees ~~as~~ Communist-inspired, but thus far AMERICAN official sources have not ~~not~~ condemned the current wave of terrorism and ~~late~~ intimidation.

(More--Miller--BD)

third add--morgan gandy--saigon

x & x and intimidation x x x.

One Vietnamese government ~~bank~~ official of a ^{NEW} branch bank in Danang explained ~~to me~~, the wave of terror

HERE:

"Citizens representing themselves as Struggle Committee members came to our bank and asked for donations ~~against the~~ ~~bank~~ for their anti-Saigon campaigns. At first, we did not ~~not~~ give them anything. Then the next day the Danang radio (in the hands of the Struggle Committee) started denouncing us--and we had ~~not~~ choice but to go along.

"The next thing they wanted was the government bank employees to join the demonstrations--not only the low-echelon ~~people~~ people, but all the way to the top including the bank manager. They had ~~not~~ choice but to go along with them. They went around to other big businesses, like Shell, and virtually forced their employees to march on the streets." All the government police, including their chief and some of the troops joined too--so who is going to protect men?"

~~every~~
"All the anti-Communist government officials up there are scared and sick," he told his friend. "I can tell you this is a Communist tactic. I saw the Communist take over in North Vietnam (in 1954)--and this is exactly the same thing. I suppose one morning I'll walk down the streets of Danang and see the red ^{AND BLUE} flag (of the Communists) up over the ~~government~~ government bank. Who's going to protect me then?"

(More--Miller--BD)

fourth add--morgan gandy--saigon x x x me then x x x.

This new wave of intimidation-terror is considered to be eroding the last vestiges of anti-Communist, pro-Saigon strength from within the government administration, civil ~~serv~~ services and army in the northern provinces, thus creating a significant power vacuum in the rear base areas ~~we~~ where the American Marines are fighting.

~~Amnagkias~~

The Vietnamese corps commander of the five-province region, where American Marines are based in three enclaves, is considered "isolated" and without authority to give orders to stop the troubles. ~~Major~~ Lieut. Gen. Ton That Dinh, newly appointed to replace ousted ~~Gen~~ Lieut. Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi and his ~~successor~~ successor, is ~~commander~~ "now a nervous wreck and is on tranquilizers," one informed source explained.

^{DINH}
"The officers under him are loyal to General Thi and they refuse to accept ^{DINH'S} orders," the source said.

The crucial province of Quang Nam, surrounding the city of Danang, has suffered worst ~~trouble~~ in the area during the political disturbances. ^{NGUYEN HUU} Dr. ~~Pham Ngoc Chi~~ ^{AND DETAINED} the province chief, was seized ^{THE} for four days by ^Q dissident committees.

(More--Miller--BD)

sixth add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x source explained x x x.

Below the provincial level, Quang Nam is divided into nine districts. Six battalions of American Marine ~~battalions~~ have fanned out into an arc around the city of Danang in ~~the~~ two of these ~~strategic~~ districts to provide security for the Danang airbase and the ~~area~~ surrounding villages.

The district chief of Hieu Duc district--in the American Marine area of responsibility--was seized by a Viet dissident Vietnamese Ranger battalion at eleven pppmm on April tenth, taken from his district until eight ayem the next ~~day~~ day and was given a lecture, the ~~gist~~ gist of which was, ~~"Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky is going to be toppled, he's backing the wrong horse a horse and he'd better switch sides against Ky and the Saigon regime,"~~ "Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky is going to be toppled, ^{YOU'D} he's backing the wrong ^{YOU'RE} horse a horse and he'd better switch sides against Ky and the Saigon regime," an informed source explained. "That poor little Captain Huyen (the district chief) was very, very scared. He requested protection from the American Marines, the Marines granted it--but then in several days the incident blew over and he didn't want the protection of the Marines."

(More--Miller--ED)

seventh add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x the marines x x x.

In the ~~area~~^Q three hundred square mile area protected by the American Marines outside of Danang, some of the pro-Saigon village chiefs fled into hiding when they ~~had~~³ heard about the ~~nearby~~^{NEIGHBORING} district chief being seized.

"While the pro-Buddhist committees are seizing the ~~market~~ pro-Saigon ~~x~~ officials from within the government ranks, the ~~Viet Cong~~ Communist Viet Cong ~~are~~² guerrillas have stepped up their terrorism right outside of Danang," an American source explained. "In one night, in one village eight people were killed by Viet Cong assassination squads. These people were becoming sympathetic to the Saigon regime so they were killed. The next day, none of the people in the friendly villages across the river would even speak to the Marines.

"We know the Viet Cong guerrillas are re-infiltrating the villages secured by the American Marines," the source continued.

the withdrawal "They are taking profit from the political ~~tru~~² turmoil--and some from ~~the withdrawal~~ of the Vietnamese troops withdrawn from that area to take part in the civil disturbances. The whole war in first corps is at eye standstill--we've lost at least six months time."

(Endit-Miller--BD)