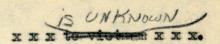
SAIGON, 31200, (UPIS)—A tense, direct—perhaps bloody—
fon confrontation between American Marines and Buddhist—inclined
demonstrators is expected soon in the northern provinces following
Thursday's small-scale street disorders in this capital city.

In their attempts to topple the anti-Communist military regime of Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky, the extremist Buddhist leadership has these two x short-term alternatives:

- of demonstrators on the streets of Saigon. Their inability to do this during there Thursday morning and demonstrations here indicates that the Southerners and other religious factions are notrptnot in direct alliance with the Buddhist extremists.
  - 2. To increase their anti-government, anti-American pressure in the northern provinces of South Vietnam—where the Buddhists are strongest and most unified and where in a nearly forty thousand American Marines Marines are fighting the Communist military troops. By improved the marines are fighting age spectacular, headline-grabbing confrontation with the American Marines, the Buddhist extremists are gambling that the American government will headline marines are gambling that the American government will headline marines are fighting that the American government will headline marines are gambling that the American government will headline marines are gambling that the American government will headline marines are gambling that the American government will headline marines are gambling that the American government will headline marines are gambling that the American government will headline marines are gambling that the American government will headline marines are gambling that the American government will headline marines are gambling that the American government will headline marines are gamblined and where it is a support of the military junta—but probably and not represent the probably are gamblined and the probably are gamblined and the probably and the gambline marines are fighting the Communist military troops.

In private, Buddhist leader extremist leaders are known to advocate the withdrawal of American military units—but the time period is unknown.

(More-Miller-BD)



## Alle se maileichien ienden

The American Marines in the z northern provinces are considered in zericon to be sitting on a key of political dynamic because, in the words of one high-ranking Vietnamese government official, "certainly the Communists hand have infiltrated the Buddhist ranks in Hue and Danang and certainly Communist agitation is going on up there."

the northern produces cities of Danang and Hue are, either
deliberately or important inadvertently, opening a second political
front for the Comi Communist Viet Cong, in the same way that the
National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NFLSVN) serves
as their The primary front. These sources believe the
Buddhist second front is in the short-run more dangerous than the

Primary NFLSVN for while the Viet Cong North Vietnamese
militarily and politically
troops control the majority of the countryside (but notrothed the
population) the majority of the countryside (but notrothed the
inspired second for front has formented anti-government, anti-American
and according to communist troubles in the urban centers, which
serve as the anti-communist rear base areas.

(More-Miller-BD)

of a prolonged political crisis, to which no solutions are yet in sight, which will benefit only the Communists.

Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky, who is considered to be "buying time", and his anti-Communist military junta are continuing to maintain their positions because of a political deadlock which is surfacing underneath them.

polarization of both reigi religious and regional factions.

Both of these two sets of factions power at blocs advocate the the removal of the anti-Communist military junta from the political are a rena and the emergence of aye civilian government. Both power blocs are considered to be in varying degrees pro-neutralist and both want the Vietnamese armed forces, which is the only cohesive anti-Communist, anti-negotiation element in the country, out of their politics so that it can notrothal counterbalance the pro-neutralist maneuverings.

But, the point of conflict is which civilian bloc will seize power after the military leaves politics.

(More-Miller-ED)

Politically counter-balancing the militant pro-neutralist fix
Buddhists in Central Vietnam is the second power bloc
of a fragile religious coalition of Southern-born Vietnamese
from the Mekong Delta region south of Saigon. This coalition
is composed of the Southern Catholics, plus some Northern refugee
Catholics, a sliver of Protestant strength, the wealthy
Southern conservative Buddhists and two militant religions called
the Hoa Hao and the Cao Dai, which together number roughly
four million followers.

These Southern elements, news, considered more pro-French than pro-American, are known to lean heavily towards a neutralist settlement for Vietnam.

## Introduce a research and the same and the same

As long as these power blocs are in conflict, Prime Minister

Ky can remain in power—but the price is the continued political

defer disintegration and the slow demise of the anti-Communist

war effort. Without the support of the Vietnamese armed forces, the

militant Central Vietnamese wirk Buddhist bloc & are incapable

of toppling Prime Minister Ky; they can however, create enough

chaos and turbulence in Central Vietnam to demand major concessions

from the government or the Americans.

If these two power blocs stop fighting each other, however, the Vietnamese armed forces will be unable to keep order and Ky could be toppled from power.

(More-Miller-BD)

Ironically, in the light of Vice President Hubert Humphrey's call for aye non-aligned South Vietnam and Southeast Asia, most political observers here believe the official American position in Vietnam is gradually swinging towards the ease encouragement of aye pro-neutralist civilian government which would eventually a re-arrange the internal Vietnamese political pie to include the Communist-led National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam.

Prime Minister Ky, has always and the staying in office by straddling these two conflicting political power blocs, has been attempting to compromise with both groups. But what is acceptable to one bloc is promptly vetoed by the other.

(More-Miller-RD)

XXX OF OTHER XXX.

The most immediate, crucial issue of disagreement between these two power blocs and the Vietnamese government revolves around the composition of the committee to draft the national constitution. demanded The Buddhist extremists have given the government the managing raimin name to the committee the elected members of the forty three councils of the forty three provinces throughout the country. These councils were elected last May under the pro-Buddhist government of Prime Minister Phan Huy Qua t; the Buddhist candidates ous we overwhelmingly won the seats on almost all of these councils. Prime Minister Ky agreed with this demand; but then the Southern bloc vetoed that demand and issued the counter-demand that the constituio constitution-drafting committee be assessive filled with candidates representing their five major Southern-oriented religions. Prime Minister Ky montain then proposed a compromise plan in which half of the members of the consitutionedrafting committee would be filled from the pro-Buddhist provincial councils and half would be filled the Southern religious representatives.

But, this compromise was vetoed by both political factions, leaving Prime Minister Ky still in office, but with norptno political solutions in sight.

"The Buddhists are playing a very clever game," one Western diplomat ground. "They demonstrate, strike and screm scream for a civilian government. They have provided the problems and have dumped the responsibility for finding the solution in the lap of the Prime Minister Ky. But once he makes a solution, they veto it."