

(Morgan Gandy)

SAIGON, 31200, (UPIS)--A tense, direct--perhaps bloody--
~~for~~ confrontation between American Marines and Buddhist-^{fomented}~~incited~~
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 ^{IMMEDIATE} short-term alternatives:

1. To organize a massive show of strength of tens of thousands
of demonstrators on the streets of Saigon. Their inability to do this
^{IN THEIR FIRST MAJOR SAIGON}
~~during there Thursday morning~~ ^{an} demonstrations here indicates
that the Southerners and other religious factions are not rpt not
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 ~~there~~ nearly forty thousand
American ~~Marines~~ Marines are fighting the Communist military troops.
By ~~increasing their~~ pressing aye spectacular, headline-grabbing
confrontation with the American Marines, the Buddhist extremists
are gambling that the American government will ~~hasten its~~ soften
or withdraw its support of the military junta--but probably ^B not
not rpt not Prime Minister Ky--and hasten the return of civilian
government to Vietnam.

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)

first add--morgan gandy--saigon

~~IS UNKNOWN~~
X X X to Vietnam X X X.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

The American Marines in the ~~2~~ northern provinces are considered ^{ALSO} ~~in addition~~ to be sitting on a ~~reg~~ ^{time Bomb} of political dynamite because, in the words of one high-ranking Vietnamese government official, "certainly the Communists ~~had~~ have infiltrated the Buddhist ranks ~~in~~ in Hue and Danang and certainly Communist agitation is going on up there."

Some political sources believe the Buddhist extremists in the northern ~~provinces~~ cities of Danang and Hue are, either deliberately or ~~inadvertently~~ inadvertently, opening a second political front for the ~~Comm~~ Communist Viet Cong, in the same way that the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NFLSVN) serves as their ~~first~~ primary front. These sources believe the Buddhist second front is in the short-run more dangerous than the ~~NFLSVN~~ NFLSVN, for while the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese ^(militarily and politically) troops control the majority of the countryside (but not the population) ~~under~~ ^{and} under the banner of the NFLSVN, the Buddhist-inspired second ~~front~~ front has fomented anti-government, ^{and} anti-American--
~~and moderate pro-Communist~~ troubles in the urban centers, which ^{military} serve as the anti-Communist rear base areas.

(More--Miller--BD)

second add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x base areas x x x.

Reliable political sources believe Vietnam is now in the midst of a prolonged political crisis, ^{with NO PPN} 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.

~~On 10/10/68, the military junta in Saigon is the~~
The political deadlock has resulted in an inter-related ^{of AGE} polarization of both ^{TWO} religious and regional factions. ^{POWER BLOCS}
Both of these ~~two sets of factions~~ power ² blocs advocate the removal of the anti-Communist military junta from the political ~~arena~~ ² arena and the emergence of a 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~~ ^{longer} element in the country, out of ~~the~~ politics so that it can not ~~not~~ 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)

third add--morgan gandy--saigon)

x x x leaves politics x x x.

Politically counter-balancing the militant pro-neutralist ~~in~~ 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, ~~however~~, ^{to BE} considered more pro-French than pro-American, are known to lean heavily towards a neutralist settlement for Vietnam.

~~Further down the page in the same column~~

As long as these power blocs are in conflict, Prime Minister Ky can remain in power--but the price is the continued political ~~decay~~ disintegration and the slow demise of the anti-Communist war effort. Without the support of the Vietnamese armed forces^s, the militant Central Vietnamese ~~winx~~ Buddhist bloc ~~x~~ 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--RD)

fourth add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x from power x x x.

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

Prime Minister Ky, ~~has been attempting to compromise with both groups~~ while 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)

fifth add--morgan gandy--saigon

THE OTHER
X X X ~~effort~~ X X X.

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. The Buddhist extremists have ~~demanded~~ given the government ~~the same name~~ to the committee the elected members of the ~~forty three~~ councils of the forty three provinces throughout the ~~country~~ country. These councils were elected last May under the pro-Buddhist government of Prime Minister Phan Huy Qua t; the Buddhist candidates ~~overwe~~ 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~~ ^{disagreed} and issued the counter-demand that the ~~constitution~~ constitution-drafting committee be ~~filled~~ filled with candidates representing their five major Southern-oriented religions. Prime Minister Ky ~~compromised~~ then proposed a compromise plan in which half of the members of the constitution-drafting 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 no political solutions in sight.

"The Buddhists are playing a very clever game," one Western diplomat groaned. "They demonstrate, strike and ~~screen~~ scream for a civilian government. They have ~~created~~ created 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."

(credit - Miller - R.N.)