

(Morgan Gandy)

SAIGON, 01200, (UPI)---The Communist destruction of the American military billet called Victoria Friday morning is regarded ^{Surviving} here as a significant milestone away from winning the anti-Communist war ~~here~~.

The last hopes of any type of victory in this political-military war by the American and South Vietnamese forces seems to be fading.

The final indications that the anti-Communist military regime can survive seem to be passing.

The Vietnamese political trends are slowly gliding ~~towards~~ towards a series of provisional and interim neutralist governments, which will bequeath ~~to~~ to American combat units "either a camouflaged retreat, if not a humiliating defeat, one Western diplomat explained.

(More--Miller--BD)

first add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x diplomat explained x x

Reaction

The significance is that while the ~~a~~ overt Communist Viet Cong can continue their military acts of terror--even in Saigon--the ~~normal~~ nationalist elements in the ~~very~~ volatile northern provinces are still choosing to ~~act~~ openly, if not ~~not~~ deliberately, ~~to attack them~~ to attack the Vietnamese government and the American military presence rather than the Communists.

In short, the nationalist elements in the northern provinces, possibly infiltrated by covert Communist subversives, are more anti-government and anti-American than they are against the Communists.

Today, ~~the~~ Viet Cong Communists staged a running gun battle on the streets of Saigon, and then blew up the American officers billet, killing three Americans and three Vietnamese, ~~wounding~~ wounding seventy two Americans and eleven Vietnamese. Yet, four hundred miles north of Saigon, in the ~~hotbed of revolt~~ revolting hotbed of Hue, Buddhist-led demonstrators held as a "virtual prisoner" ~~an~~ an important general dispatched from Saigon to make a compromise with the anti-government dissident elements. Lieut. But, General Phan Xuan Chieu, who is secretary-general (or ~~no.~~ ^{Number} three) in the ruling ten-man, anti-Communist military junta, instead of obtaining a compromise, was forced to march to the Hue radio station by rabid students, and then was "quasi-detained" in their struggle committee headquarters.

(More--Miller--BD)

second add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x committee headquarters x

"The seizure of General Chieu makes impossible any compromise between the Saigon government and the ~~Buddhist-led~~ Buddhist-fomented dissidents," ^{there} one highly reliable source explained. "Nobody ever thought that ~~there~~ could be a compromise in the first place, but this is the final evidence that ~~there are~~ attempts to do so are only wasting time. And wasting time now ~~me~~ means to help the Communists."

In ² both Hue, ~~and~~ ² the military discipline of the Vietnamese armed forces appeared to be shattered as reports reached here that the ten-thousand man First ~~Infantry~~ Vietnamese Infantry Division was also turning against the Saigon government and would refuse to ~~obey~~ obey any orders to maintain law and order in the face of the rising tide of anti-government, anti-American ~~disurban~~ disturbances, disorders and possible future violence.

In Saigon, the political cohesiveness of the Vietnamese armed forces--which is considered to be the ~~only~~ ~~major~~ major anti-Communist political force in the country--also seemed to be broken. The seizure of General Chieu would have a disunifying impact ~~in~~ within the ten-man ruling junta itself, sources believed, while at the same time, Vietnamese government sources said that executive chief of staff of the ~~Vietnamese~~ at the Vietnamese High Command, Maj. Gen. Linh Quang Vien, ~~would be transferred~~ ^{WAS} is transferred ^{Friday} and will ^{soon} be re-assigned as Minister of Interior.

(More--Miller--ED)

third add--morgan gandy--saigon

x x x of interior x x x.

~~The move is interpreted here~~

The transfer of the Ministry of Interior--which is significant in that it controls the Vietnamese police--from ~~civil~~ civilian to ~~military~~ military hands is regarded here as a tipoff that the Saigon regime may possibly attempt to crackdown on extremist and subversive troublemakers, especially in the northern provinces.

In the face of these internal political ~~turbulence~~ turbulence, the Vietnamese anti-Communists had hoped that the rock of stability ~~in the political picture~~ would be the American official position in Washington.

Instead the call by Vice President Hubert Humphrey this week for a non-aligned South Vietnam and South East Asia, in the words of a Vietnamese government official, was "the hand-writing on the wall. The Americans are tossing in the sponge here."

The Communist destruction of the American billet this morning, at this crucial juncture, is considered likely to widen the cleavage between the Americans and the Vietnamese at all levels, as well as ~~to~~ increase Communist further political intimidation of the ~~rich~~ wealthy property owning ~~classes~~ classes.

"The Vietnamese government has been clamping down for more taxes from the wealthy property owners--even though this is their economic base of support for the regime," one reliable source explained. "Now, the Viet Cong through terrorism are warning these property owners to deal with the Communists. So, even the rich class in Saigon is caught between the hammer and the anvil."

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