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chaos--1

april 2, 1965

SAIGON--The Communist North Vietnamese regime may be expecting to take over the ~~the~~ American-backed Saigon govefn government and southern republic through political subversion, chaos, and confusion.

Travelers from ~~Ha n~~ Hanoi report that the Hanoi regime is <sup>now</sup> probably less confident about their success than they were after the ~~the~~ American air strikes in August in retaliation for the Tonkin Gulf affair.

"The Hanoi government believes anytime now a government in Saigon will invite them in," one traveler ~~from Hanoi~~ from Hanoi. "They North Vietnamese think there will be more coup d'etats, more Buddhist demonstrations and more chaos--~~in~~ and then the gates may be open to them. They depend alot on that."

(More)



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Anti-Communist political observers in Saigon also predict more and more political trouble within South Vietnam in the coming months. These observers believe it is hardly accidental that after the August 5th Tonkin Gulf airstrikes against North Vietnam, there was a chaotic period of Buddhist-Catholic religious warfare, that the constitution of Maj. Gen. Nguyen Khanh was abolished through street demonstrations and that he was toppled from the Presidency. Similarly these observers believe it is hardly accidental that after following the February 7 American airstrikes against North Vietnamese Vietnam, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Khanh was dismissed as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, that the and leadership power of the anti-Communist armed forces was sharply diminished and that the Vietnamese generals are now fighting amongst themselves.

Some observers attribute this to the "invisible hands of Communist subversives."

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One traveler from Hanoi said that the Communist North Vietnamese regime was "jubilant after the Tonkin incident (in August). They thought it would be a matter of time before chaos would take over, that there would be a government (in Saigon) that would ~~be~~<sup>be</sup> anti-American ~~and that there would be anti-American demonstrations.~~

"At the turn of the year, they (the Hanoi regime) thought it would be a matter of a month that by political activity and the Viet Cong ~~military~~ troops together they would be able to take control of the country. Now we don't know if they are that confident."

The traveler from Hanoi continued: "The Hanoi regime believes alot of its own propaganda. They think there are Viet Cong all over Saigon. Even Western diplomats in Hanoi ask us if it is secure to go out of Saigon. The Hanoi regime believe<sup>s</sup> their own propaganda and think maybe the Viet Cong will succeed. They overestimate the success of the Viet Cong (military troops) here."

Presumably, however, the blasting of the American ~~Embassy~~ Embassy in Saigon this week ~~would~~<sup>will</sup> reinforce their confidence in the Viet Cong guerrilla and terrorist strength.

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"Now since the latest American bombings of North Viet Nam, they are just silent," the traveler from Hanoi continued. "They will go on to the last man. Their morale is all right and the regime isn't yet being shattered."

"The traveler reported that "the leaders in the Hanoi regime are not as jubilant now as after the ~~Aug~~ August Tenkim air-raids. They always thought alot of 'Big Minh' (Lt. Gen. Duong Van Minh--leader of the first military junta in ~~Jan~~ November, 1963, and chief of state under ~~Amn~~ ~~Amn~~ the second junta headed by Maj. Gen. Nguyen Khanh. Following the toppling of Khanh from the Presidency by street demonstrations in August, Khanh charged that American B Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor was backing Gen. Minh instead of himself for political power. American officials deny this.)

"The Hanoi regime always thought Minh had something and that the other generals would go one after the other. They thought Diem <sup>HAD A Strong</sup> ~~GOVERNMENT~~ (President Ngo Dinh Diem who ruled from 1955 until ~~Novem~~ Minh's November, 1963, coup d'etat). They were against Khanh (Lt. ~~Gen.~~ Gen. Nguyen Khanh who came to power in Jan., 1964 coup, was toppled from Presidency in August, 1964, street demonstrations, then became commander-in-chief of armed forces, made several charges against Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor and was dismissed as commander-in-chief February of this year, 13 days after American airstrikes on North Vietn- HE'S NOW TOURING ~~THE~~ military installation IN THE UNITED STATES.



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"The leaders in Hanoi called Khanh all ~~sorts~~<sup>3</sup> sorts of names like <sup>FM</sup> opportunist, but they did not like him. The other generals ~~(now leading~~  
~~the armed forces)~~ they (Hanoi) think are just ~~in~~<sup>2</sup> here for a bit of time."

(Mason) xm -30-