

Viet Rioting For Fifth Day

By Beverly Deepe
A Special Correspondent

SAIGON.

A mob of 2,000 people rioted today in Da Nang, hurled rocks through a U. S. Army billet in South Viet Nam's second largest city and shouted anti-government and anti-American slogans.

Students and pedicab drivers were among the marchers whose demonstration erupted into violence that sent several civilians to the hospital with injuries. Police did not interfere with the demonstrators. There were no reports of American casualties.

In Hue, far to the north, 4,000 people reportedly sacked a Roman Catholic school. In Saigon itself, about 400 students were meeting in various parts of the city and planning a march on the Information Ministry; more violence was expected.

It was the fifth straight day of protests against the regime of President Nguyen Khanh. Yesterday a mob of students

More on VIET—P 12

Viet Protest: Student Riots In Fifth Day

(Continued from page one)

stormed the government radio station in Saigon, smashing windows and furniture.

At the same time, the Buddhist hierarchy, members of which have been cooperating with the dissident students, formed a "Movement for the Salvation of Buddhists in Danger," similar to the Buddhist organization which led protests a year ago against the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

At a mass prayer meeting in the Buddhist National Shrine, the Buddhists released a statement saying they would support the Khanh regime "if it really respects freedom and democracy, including freedom of religion."

VEILED THREAT

But a saffron-robed Buddhist chaplain in the South Vietnamese Armed Forces, Thich (Venerable) Ho Giac, in an apparent reference to the government, told the crowd of thousands: "If there are old trees and dead trees, we have to change them."

He added that "if the soldiers are betrayed by some one they must drop their rifles and go home." The statement appeared a veiled threat that the Buddhists might withdraw support for the fighting against the Viet Cong Communists and turn neutralist.

Thich Ho Giac, who played a part in last year's Buddhist campaign against the Diem regime, also told the crowd of thousands: "If we call for you to demonstrate, you must do it. If we have to die together, are you ready to die with us?" He drew a roaring affirmative from the audience, made up largely of women and children, with a few uniformed soldiers.

The Buddhists, who began demonstrations last Thursday in loose alliance with anti-Khanh student groups, reportedly have already had some success in influencing the President.

BUDDHIST COMPLAINTS

Informed sources said President Khanh, who has been putting together a new government to go with the new Constitution announced last week, is now revising his proposed Cabinet list in response to the Buddhist pressure.

The Buddhists have complained about the holdover of officials who were in the Diem regime during its bitter conflict with their church. The newly formed Buddhist salvation movement issued a statement last night accusing the "clique of the former Diem regime" of "slandering" the Buddhists through the "foreign press."

The attack on the radio station by 600 students began with a rally protesting a broadcast saying that student leaders who met with President Khanh Saturday were satisfied with his explanation of his policies. The students, who were protesting the constitutional changes under which Gen. Khanh switched from Premier to President, said at the time they were not satisfied.

Anti-American overtones continued to grow. Participants in the rally, at Saigon University's medical school, applauded wildly when a law student, Do Van Ngoc, told them: "After the Communists, the Americans will be our next enemy if there is any sabotage of the student fight." Other student speakers assailed Gen. Khanh as a "dictator" and "demagogue."

STUDENT DEMANDS

A crowd of 600 students then marched to the government radio station and demanded a retraction of the offending broadcast. When a sudden downpour of rain occurred, unarmed police guarding the station ducked under trees and the students stampeded into the building over wooden barricades.

They smashed windows and office furniture before retreating, but did not damage the broadcasting equipment. The police, who have handled the wave of demonstrations with kid gloves to avoid charges of Diem-type brutality, did not interfere.

Another rally, also attended by about 600 students, took place later at the university's pharmacy school. One student called on his fellows to march on the Information Ministry and burn it in protest against censorship. But organizers of the meeting put off any such demonstration till today.

The demonstrators were described by a spokesman for the university's student union as an extremist minority that lacked support from the majority of Saigon University students. The Saigon student demonstrations, however, have been matched elsewhere in the country, notably at the Buddhist holy city of Hue in the north. Students from both Buddhist and Catholic schools took part.

KHANH REFUSAL

The student demonstrations are aimed primarily at the new Constitution under which Gen. Khanh became a "strong" President last week, displacing the popular Gen. Duong Van Minh, head of an earlier military junta, from what had previously been a figurehead post.

The students have also called for a popularly elected civilian government to replace the current military-dominated regime. Gen. Khanh has insisted that elections are impossible at present because of the threat from the Communist Viet Cong guerrillas.

The ominous parallel to last year's anti-Diem demonstrations—in which seven Buddhist monks and nuns burned themselves to death in anti-government protests—was strengthened by the attempted fire suicide yesterday of a 53-year-old man.

After reportedly telling his daughter he was dissatisfied with the Khanh regime, Trinh Van Nhuong set himself on fire in a street near the Saigon airport. He was rushed to a hospital with severe burns.

Yesterday's anti-American statements by students appeared to be a reaction to Washington's avowed support for Gen. Khanh's government as the last hope for stability in Saigon.

The Khanh government underlined this situation yesterday by releasing the text of a pro forma message from President Johnson, congratulating Gen. Khanh on becoming President and expressing hope he would succeed in "consolidating the freedom and independence" of his country.