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Tuesday, April 5, 1966

Text of CIA Intelligence Memorandum

The Situation in South Vietnam as of 10 AM EST

At 5:55 PM Saigon time, when Prime Minister Ky departed Danang, there was still no reported direct confrontation between the three emergency Vietnamese Marine battalions and anti-government agitators in Danang. Before Ky left for Saigon, he announced in a speech that his previous appraisal that Hue and Danang were Communist-held was incorrect. The press reports that while Ky was in Danang he conferred with Buddhist leaders before making his soft-line speech.

In Saigon, however, Buddhist students from the Buddhist Youth Association battled riot police for three hours before being dispersed. One of the demonstrators was wounded slightly by a shot from carbines which were being fired over their heads. A Vietnamese Ranger battalion moved to the Buddhist Headquarters during the demonstration to enforce the 9 PM to 5 AM curfew imposed earlier in the day.

Demonstrations continued in Nha Trang, where the USIS library was reportedly burned and sacked, in Pleiku town, where there were unconfirmed reports of fighting between soldiers loyal and opposed to the government, and in Hue, where students reportedly demonstrated in front of the American Advisory Billet.

The Commanding General of the 3rd U. S. Marine Amphibious Force has ordered the evacuation to secure areas of all U. S. advisors to tactical Vietnamese units in First Corps trouble spots. Eight civilians in Quang Tri city and 75 in Hue are also being air-evacuated to the Marine base at Phu Bai. This is phase one of the contingency evacuation plan and does not include members of the Consulate in Hue [REDACTED]

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