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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
13 March 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 8:00 A.M. EST)

1. There continues to be conflicting information

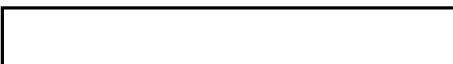


as to whether General Thi remains in protective custody in Saigon or has returned to Da Nang as reported yesterday afternoon. The most recent information from the US Embassy is that Thi is still in Saigon today.

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2. Meanwhile, a general strike called for in the Da Nang area today by groups protesting Thi's ouster appeared as of noon local time to be about 90 percent effective. Although the public response was somewhat difficult to assess because of normally slack commercial activity on Sunday, about 75 percent of the shops are reported closed, the port of Da Nang is closed, no cyclodriviers are working, and about 85-90 percent of the civilian workers employed in US military construction did not report for duty. No police are in evidence on the streets. There are some reports that the organizers of the strike may attempt to extend it through Monday.

3. So far, the strike has not spread to other towns in I Corps. Quang Ngai city, where a similar work stoppage was reportedly called for today, appears calm; Hue and Hoi An are quiet, with business operating normally. Saigon continues free of unrest, although troop movements scheduled for late today and early tomorrow around the city in connection with the planned execution of a Chinese profiteer may provoke some rumors of trouble.



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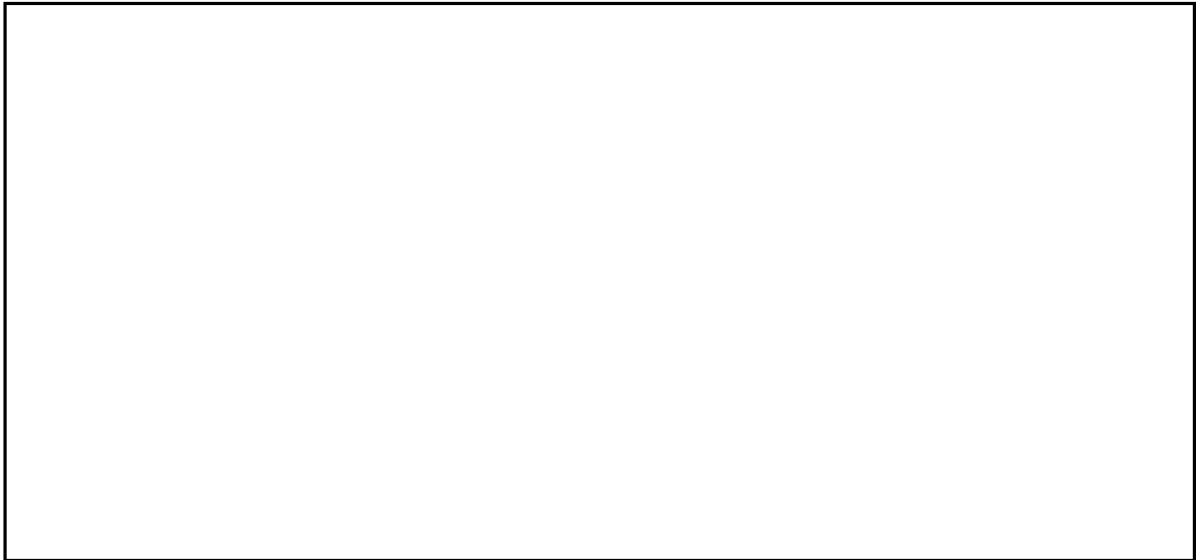
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4. Premier Ky is reported to feel that the strike in Da Nang is not a cause for serious concern, although he has indicated that he may visit I Corps tomorrow to "show his face." Police Director Lieu and Military Security Service Chief Colonel Loan, now in I Corps, have reported to Ky that General Chuan, the new I Corps commander, has accepted full responsibility for dealing with agitation in the area. Most of the troublemakers are still felt to be local political factions, and at least three ranking Buddhist leaders, including Tri Quang, have now reportedly assured Ky that the Buddhists will not cause trouble.



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