

TOP SECRET

HISTORICAL BRANCH, G-3 DIVISION
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

1 October 1964

GENERAL CHRONOLOGY
OF EVENTS IN VIETNAM
1945-1964

Note: Level of classification is derived from research sources shown for each entry herein; where no classification is shown the information was derived from an unclassified source.

Reviewed by the Director of
the Department of History and Museums
in accordance with the provisions
of E.O. 12958, Ser 009D323/232095 of
12/79

Signature Date

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INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Vietnam is composed of the former French protectorates of Tonkin (Hanoi) and Annam (Hue) and the former French colony of Cochin China (Saigon). These ^{political} ~~practical~~ subdivisions together with Laos and Cambodia had, before 1946, comprised French Indochina.

The recorded history of the area occupied by the Republic of Vietnam dates from the 2d Century B. C. when the Chinese occupied the Red River Valley and a coastal strip to the south in what is now North Vietnam. A native revolt in 938 A. D. drove out the Chinese and led to the founding of an independent kingdom, which with the exception of a brief interval of Chinese dominance in the early 15th Century, ~~existed~~ ^{existed} in one form or another ~~while~~ ^{until} the establishment of French hegemony in the area. In the 17th Century this Northern Kingdom broke into two factions divided roughly along the 17th parallel. The southern portion of the Kingdom gradually absorbed the Champa Empire on the southern coast so that by the time western expansion in the area began in earnest, the present physical configuration of Vietnam had been established.

Portuguese Some feeble attempts to establish trade relations with the Vietnamese states were made by the Portuguese and Dutch beginning in the mid- 16th Century. French Catholic missionaries began to arrive at about the same time. It was through these missionaries and French military advisors that a modicum of French influence already existed in Vietnam when the French government began to push its territorial ambitions in the region. Between 1859 and 1867 the area which was to become Cochin China was taken by force of arms. Tonkin was brought under French sway between 1873 and 1883.

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By TREATIES IN 1883 and 1884 TONKIN

and Annam became French protectorates. In 1887, the French joined the three states together in the Indochinese Union. It was not until 1900, however, that the country could be described ~~during the first~~ as "pacified." Even so ^{during the} _{FIRST} four decades of the 20th Century Indochina was swept by a succession of upheavals against French rule. Eventually, these movements took a nationalistic trend but the coming of World War II postponed resolution^{on} of the impasse.

Shortly after the fall of France in June 1940, a Vichy regime was installed in Indochina. For the most part the Japanese and French collaborated very closely throughout the war -- it was not until March 1945 that the French administration was completely supplanted by the Japanese. In the meantime, a number of resistance groups tinged with nationalistic tendencies had grown up in the country. Of these, the Vietminh, ^{headed} ~~headed~~ by the Communist, Ho Chi Minh, was the most powerful and best organized by the end of the war.

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1945

7 Aug-2 Sep

The Communist Vietnamese under Ho Chi Minh ^{Seized} ~~sized~~ control of the Vietnam government.

19 Aug

Communist forces of Ho Chi Minh ^{Seized} ~~sized~~ Hanoi.

2 Sep

Ho Chi Minh announced the formation of a provisional government under his leadership and proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

21 Sep

^{First} French troops returned to Vietnam.

25 Sep

Communist-led armed ^u ~~con~~teraction commenced against the French. ✓

5 Oct

Large numbers of French troops began to arrive in Vietnam.

8 Nov

The Cao Dai forces surrendered to the French after their capital, Tay Ninh, was occupied.

11 Nov

The Indochinese Communist Party was ostensibly ^{dissolved} ~~dissolved~~ to appease the sensibilities of the West, but it actually continued to function. ✓
A new government was formed in Hanoi paying lip service to non-Communist parties.

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1946

6 Jan

The Ho Chi Minh government held and won the first Vietnamese elections for a National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

6 Mar

At Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and the French signed an accord providing for: the recognition of Vietnam as an independent member of the French Union; ~~for~~ a plebescite on the re~~un~~ification of Coch~~in~~ China with the north; and ~~allowing~~ the stationing of French troops in certain North Vietnamese towns.

18 Apr

The first Franco-Vietnamese Conference opened at Dalat aimed at resolving problems arising from the agreement of 6 Mar 1946. No agreement was reached. Ho Chi Minh demanded a conference in France.

27 May

The "Lien-Viet" was formed comprising all parties and groups allied with the Vietminh as well as all Communist-front organizations.

1 Jun

The French proclaimed Coch~~in~~ China to be an autonomous republic.

6 Jun-1 Aug

Ho Chi Minh and other Vietnamese leaders negotiated with the French at Fontainebleu. The positions of the two nations were found to be irreconcilable.

15 Oct

The Ho Chi Minh government formed a Vietnamese army headed by Vo Nguyen Giap.

8 Nov

The Communist-dominated National Assembly proclaimed the unity of North, Central, and South Vietnam. ✓

23 Nov

In the "Haiph^{ing} Incident" the French destroyed a large portion of the Vietnamese armed forces.

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1946 (Continued)

19 Dec

A surprise attack on French positions by Vietminh forces failed and the Ho Chi Minh government fled Hanoi and went underground to embark on a protracted "war of independence." This marked the real beginning of the Indochina War.

1947

7 Feb

Hue fell to the French.

19 Feb

Last Vietminh forces were overcome by the French in Hanoi.

11 Mar

Nam Dinh was taken by French paratroopers.

12 May

Ho Chi Minh rejected harsh French terms as a basis for re-opening negotiations.

28 May

The anti-Communist Front of National Union was formed in Saigon.

22 Aug

The Front of National Union invited Bao Dai, former figurehead Emperor of Vietnam, to return from exile in Hong Kong to head an anti-Communist National government.

10 Sep

The French High Commissioner for Indochina offered the Vietnamese "liberty within the French Union." Both the Vietminh and the "moderate" rejected the proposal.

18 Sep

Bao Dai agreed to "represent" Vietnam in negotiations with France.

22 Sep

The American Ambassador to China gave Bao Dai to understand that the United States would support a non-Communist Vietnamese government.

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1947 (Continued)

7 Dec

Against the advice of Ngo Dinh Diem and other nationalist leaders, Bao Dai signed a "preliminary agreement" with the French High Commissioner.

1948

22 Feb

At the instigation of Ngo Dinh Diem, nationalist leaders, including those of the "Sects" and other religious groups, met in Saigon to discuss conditions for further negotiations with France.

5 Jun

Bao Dai and the High Commissioner signed the Ha Long agreements, stipulating conditions for the formation of a Vietnamese government.

6 Jun

A provisional central government of Vietnam was formed with French blessing.

1949

8 Mar

Bao Dai accepted the French conditions for his return to Vietnam to head the government.

23 Apr

The Cochinchina Assembly voted to reunite Cochinchina with Vietnam.

14 Jun

Bao Dai assumed ^{the} role as Chief of State ^{re}. Ngo Dinh Diem rejected an offer to become Prime Minister.

16 Aug

The French launched a ^{large-scale} ~~great~~ offensive in Tonkin. ✓

16 Dec

Chinese Communist troops arrived at the ^{China} ~~Vietnamese~~ border.

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1950

16 Jan

Communist China recognized the Ho Chi Minh government.

31 Jan

Russia recognized the Ho Chi Minh government.

2 Feb

Chinese equipment was reported to have been received by the Vietminh.

7 Feb

Great Britain recognized the Bao Dai government. The United States followed closely.

8 May

The United States announced the decision to give aid to France for the war in Indochina.

30 May

A United States economic mission arrived in Saigon.

15 Jul

An American Military mission arrived in Vietnam.

1 Oct

Vo Nguyen Giap instituted a series of attacks on French forts along the Chinese border. By 17 Oct 1950 the Communist forces had completely eliminated the border strongpoints.

17 Dec

Marshal de Lattre de Tassigny assumed command of the Indochina theater.

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1951

10 Jan

Giap began push on Hanoi with 81 battalions.

14 Jan

Marshal de Lattre assumed personal command of the defense of Hanoi.

17 Jan

Communist forces were defeated in an all-out attempt to take Hanoi, and thereafter reverted to guerrilla tactics.

29 May

Vietminh forces attacked French positions around Ninh-Binh but ^{were} repelled after hard fighting.

22 Sep

Vietminh forces in division strength attacked the French stronghold at Nghia-Lo but were repelled. ✓

14 Nov

The battle for Hoa-Binh, a major road link with the Communist north, began. The siege lasted until 24 Feb 1952 when the French evacuated their positions in and around Hoa-Binh.

1952

11 Jan

Marshal de Lattre died.

21 Sep

The Vietminh staged an attack near Saigon.

11 Oct

Vietminh began infiltration of ^{the} Thai Highlands.

16 Oct

The battle of Tu-Le began with the air drop of ~~Tu-Le~~ ^{French troops.} The battle ended 20 Oct when the French began evacuating their positions.

29 Oct

"Operation Dorraine" began with French assault forces operating along the Red River.

6

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1952 (Continued)

30 Nov

First Vietminh units reach Laotian border.

1953

3-9 Apr

Unsuccessful defense of Sop-Nao by the French.

13 Apr-18 May

In the defense of Muong-Khoua, a delaying action intended to last for 14 days, the French force managed to hold out for 36 under extremely adverse odds. *daup* ✓

8 May

General Navarre assumed command of the French forces.

28 Jul-4 Aug

"Operation Camargue" was carried out along the Vietnam coast. The operation entailed the use of sizeable amphibious and airborne units as well as armor and infantry in an attempt to eliminate the Communist forces an important coastal road; success was only limited.

20 Nov *along*

French troops occupied Dien Bien Phu in order to forestall a Vietminh march through Laos.

*21-26 Dec 1953 -*1954 *X*

18 Feb

The "Big Four" agreed at Berlin to hold a conference at Geneva in order to seek a solution for Korea and the Indochina War.

5 Mar

Premier Laniel of France approved a truce if the Vietminh would evacuate Cambodia, Laos, the Tonkin Delta, and South Vietnam.

12 Mar

The French fortress of Dien Bien Phu was invested by a Communist force commanded by General Vo Nguyen Giap. The siege which followed lasted until 8 May 1954 when the last French position was overrun.

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1954 (Continued)

4 Apr

A regimental-size French mobile task force was ambushed near Ankhe. Although the French managed to fight their way out of the trap, the losses were very heavy.

8 May-21 Jul

Geneva Conference on Indochina. The delegates were from Great Britain and the USSR (joint chairmen), France, the United States, Communist China, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, and the Vietminh regime. Agreements were signed on July 21 and the main provisions concerning Vietnam were ~~maximally~~ that (1) Vietnam was to be partitioned along the 17th parallel into North and South Vietnam, (2) regulations were imposed on foreign military bases and personnel and on increased armaments, (3) countrywide elections, leading to the reunification of North and South Vietnam, were to be held by July 20, 1956, and (4) an International Control Commission (ICC) ~~to be established to~~ ^{was to be} supervise the implementation of the Agreements. The United States and Vietnam were not signatories to the Agreements. The United States issued a unilateral declaration stating that it (1) "will refrain from the threat or the use of force to disturb" the Geneva Agreements, (2) "would view any renewal of the aggression in violation of the aforesaid agreements with grave concern and as seriously threatening international peace and security," and (3) "shall continue to seek to achieve unity through free elections supervised by the UN to insure that they are conducted fairly."

15 Jun

Ngo Dinh Diem was appointed premier of ^{the} Republic of Vietnam Bao Dai.

29 Jun

The French began the evacuation of Red River ports.

21 Jul

The Geneva accords were signed ending the Indochina War.

2 Aug

LtCol Victor J. Croizat, USMC, became the first U. S. Marine to work with the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) in Saigon. This activity was responsible for planning and administering US military assistance to the French forces combatting Ho Chi Minh's Communists. When the French were defeated in 1954, the aid was given to the armed forces opposing Ho. As Senior Marine Advisor, LtCol Croizat advised the Commandant, Vietnamese Marine Corps, in all Marine matters. (C)

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1954 (Continued)

17-18 Aug

The United States began evacuation of nearly 200,000 refugees from the Hanoi and Haiphong areas to South Vietnam.

31 Aug

General Paul Ely, French High Commissioner for Indochina stated that France was unequivocally committed to support the South Vietnamese government as the legal government in Vietnam and to grant it total independence.

16 Sep

South Vietnam's independence was established as France turned over to the Diem government control of the police, justice and security departments, public utilities, and civil aviation.

25 Sep

Diem reorganized his cabinet, to include Cao Dai and Hoa Hao leaders.

Oct

The National Revolutionary Movement, a mass political party in South Vietnam, ~~was~~ founded.

11 Oct

The ~~communist~~ Vietminh regime formally assumed control of Hanoi and North Vietnam.

24 Oct

President Eisenhower in a letter to Premier Diem of South Vietnam stated that American assistance would be given thereafter not through the French authorities, but directly to the Government of South Vietnam. The letter also said that the U.S. Government "expects this aid will be met by...undertaking needed reforms."

8 Nov

add
Genl Collins, ~~South Vietnam~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Pres Eisenhower's special Ambassador to South Vietnam, arrived in Saigon to strengthen Diem's position. *- Jean*
U.S. aid enabled Diem's government to commence large-scale program *a*
for resettlement of 900,000 refugees from the north. *add hyphen*

Nov

Resettlement of almost one million refugees from the North was undertaken.

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1955

78

1 Jan

United States began direct assistance to South Vietnam, on the basis of the existing pentilateral agreement of December 1950, for the support of the Vietnamese armed forces.

Feb

Several clashes occurred between the South Vietnamese Army and members of the Hoa Hao ^(Sect.) Sect.

5 Feb

Premier Diem decreed the first of a series of land reform programs.

11 Feb

Diem succeeded in taking control of the Vietnamese armed forces from the French.

12 Feb

U. S. ^X Gen. John W. O'Daniel, Chief of U. S. Mission to South Vietnam, took over responsibility from the French for training the South Vietnamese Army.

19 Feb

The Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty (SEATO)- ^(a) with its protocol covering Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos-came into force.

1 Mar

U. S. Secretary of State Dulles arrived in Saigon.

7 Mar

United States and South Vietnam signed ^(a) on agreement which supplemented the existing economic cooperation agreement of ~~September~~ ^{abrupt} 1951.

29 Mar

An armed revolt was ^U began in Saigon by the Binh Xuyen political-bandit group, spreading ultimately into large-scale dissidence in the southern provinces with the participation of elements of the Cao Dai and Hoa Hao religious sects.

31 Mar

A French-North Vietnamese agreement provided for a North Vietnamese Liaison Mission to the International Control Commission to operate in South Vietnam.

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1955 (Continued)

17 Apr

The South Vietnamese ~~Government~~ ^{the} appealed to the UN against the North Vietnamese Communists, who, in violation of the Geneva Agreements, were preventing northerners from migrating to South Vietnam.

28 Apr

A showdown occurred between Bao Dai and Ngo Dinh Diem. Bao Dai ordered Diem to go to France. Diem refused, and supported by a Revolutionary Committee that mobilized support of his government, ^{the} resumed struggle to oust the Binh Xuyen. He demanded removal of Bao Dai as Chief of State and the withdrawal of all French troops.

9-11 May

Discussions between Premier Faure and Secretary Dulles resulted in the withdrawal of French troops from the Saigon-Cholon area, toward the coast.

10 May

Premier Diem formed a new cabinet composed largely of his own followers.

13 May

The French evacuated Haiphong.

16 May

^{the} Time limit given by Geneva Agreement for the exodus of refugees from North to South Vietnam (and vice versa) was extended to 20 July.

6 Jun

^{the} North Vietnamese government demanded talks, in accordance with Geneva Agreement, to prepare the elections in July 1956 to unify Vietnam.

July

Communists initiated the first overt propaganda moves in South Vietnam by distributing literature signed by North Vietnam's "National United Front."

1 Jul

Two U. S. helicopters thwarted Vietcong ^{at} guerrillas from carrying out a successful attack on a 36-truck Vietnamese convoy bound from Quinhon, 250 miles from Saigon, for II Corps headquarters at Pleiku.

UNCLASSIFIED

1955 (Continued)

1 Jul

The French formally relinquished command authority over the Vietnamese Navy.

7 Jul

The French formally transferred the Nha Trang air base to Vietnamese control.

7 Jul

Red China announced agreement to aid North Vietnam.

16 Jul

Diem declared that South Vietnam, *not "S"* which did not sign the Geneva Agreements, would not participate in general elections unless assured that the elections would be genuinely free in the North as well as in the South.

18 Jul

The USSR announced an aid agreement with the Hanoi government.

10 Aug

Refused South Vietnam rejected for the third time Hanoi demands for general elections to unify Vietnam on grounds that the populace in the north would not be able to vote freely and that falsified votes *there* could override votes in the *(S)* south.

16 Aug

The last French High Commissioner for Vietnam departed.

Oct

The Binh Xuyen was defeated as an organized armed insurgent force.

23 Oct

must A national referendum deposed Bao Dai, former emperor and since *(March 1949)* Head of State of Vietnam. Ninety-eight percent of the votes *as* expressed preference for Premier Diem.

26 Oct

A Republic was proclaimed by Ngo Dinh Diem who became the first President of South Vietnam.

5 Dec

President Diem decreed a new Vietnamese nationality law.

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1955 (Continued)

30 Dec

"H"
"H"
A Government plan for the resettlement of 100,000 refugees from North Vietnam was published. "The Government will induce landlords to sign contracts with refugee tenants, and if the landlords refuse to sign, the Government will take over the contracts on behalf of the refugees."

1956

Jan

which led the
South Vietnamese Army units occupied Tay Ninh, principal Cao Dai political center, leading to break-up of the organized Cao Dai armed insurgency. An agreement with Cao Dai leaders on February 28 legalized Cao Dai religious practices and forbade its political activities as a religious sect. abbrevials Feb of 1956

12 Feb

the
Tran Van Soai, leader of an important Hoa Hao faction, surrendered. Ba Cut, another principal Hoa Hao leader, was captured on 13 Apr, leading to a break-up of organized Hoa Hao armed insurgency. which led

23 Feb

North Vietnam called for a new meeting of the participants of the Geneva Conference. North Vietnam accused South Vietnam of violating the Agreement by refusing to participate in all-Vietnam elections and by preparing separate elections in South Vietnam.

4 Mar

General elections for South Vietnam's first National Constituent Assembly resulted in the victory of the National Revolutionary Movement and other political parties supporting President Diem.

22 Mar

A French-Vietnamese agreement for withdrawal of the remaining French expeditionary forces was signed by 30 June 1956.

6 Apr

The South Vietnamese Government announced it would continue to cooperate with the International Control Commission and reiterated its position of support on Vietnam-wide elections at such time as conditions in North Vietnam permitted genuinely free voting. X

28 Apr

The French Military High Command in Vietnam was dissolved.

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1956 (Continued)

4 Jul

The Constituent Assembly of South Vietnam approved unanimously a draft constitution providing for a strong executive with safeguards for individual citizens. The President, whose term of office was 5 years, had veto power over all legislation of the unicameral parliament and could rule by decree when the National Assembly (elected for 4 years) was not in session.

6 Jul

U. S. Vice President Richard Nixon visited Vietnam, and gave President Diem a letter in which President Eisenhower declared he was looking forward to many years of partnership between the two countries. As guest speaker before the Constituent Assembly, Nixon declared that "the militant march of communism has been halted."

30 Jul

The Vietnamese Liaison Mission to the International Control Commission was established preparatory to the transfer of functions from the French Liaison Mission. *Repetitions*

21 Aug

President Diem issued a decree regulating the status of Chinese born in Vietnam. The decree declared them to be Vietnamese citizens, and those who refused to accept their new status were to leave the country.

14 Sep

President Diem reshuffled his cabinet.

19 Sep

the French Air Force officially transferred the Tourane air base to Vietnamese control.

26 Oct

A Constitution for South Vietnam was adopted. A presidential decree aimed at breaking up large land holdings created during colonial period was promulgated. *the*

16 Nov

Radio Hanoi ~~broadcasts~~ admitted peasant resistance and armed clashes in North Vietnam's Nghe An province.

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1957

Jan

U. S. aid to South Vietnam was approximately a half billion dollars during 1955 and 1956, of which two-thirds was to build up and maintain the armed forces. ~~No French troops remained in Vietnam.~~

3 Jan

The International Control Commission reported that between December 1955 and August 1956 neither North Vietnam nor South Vietnam were fulfilling their obligations under the 1954 armistice agreement.

22 Feb

A Cao Dai fanatic attempted the assassination of President Diem at a rural fair in Ban Me Thuot.

5 Mar

President Diem enunciated a new national investment policy.

27 Mar

The Asian People's Anti-Communist League began its third conference in Saigon. Vietnam was established as the site of the permanent secretariat.

11 Apr

Lucien Cannon, Chief of the Canadian Delegation to the International Control Commission, was murdered.

2 May

A national military conscription program was decreed in South Vietnam.

5-19 May

President Diem visited the United States and addressed ~~on 19 May~~ a joint session of Congress on 19 May. In a joint communique issued 11 May, President Eisenhower and President Diem declared that both countries would work toward a "peaceful unification" of Vietnam. The ~~reiterated~~ ^{reiterated} that it would ~~continue~~ ^{continue} helping South Vietnam to stand firm against communism.

9 May

The legal deadline expired for Chinese persons born in Vietnam to exchange Chinese citizenship papers for Vietnamese citizenship cards.

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1957 (Continued)

J

Jun

The French naval and Air Force training mission was withdrawn from Vietnam.

10 Jun

The U. S. ^{Export-Import Bank} granted South Vietnam a \$25 million loan for ^{economic} development.

25 Oct

The USS R vetoed a resolution to admit South Vietnam to the UN.

27 Oct

~~MAAG~~ MAAG and USIS installations in Saigon were bombed. ~~personnel~~ personnel were injured in the incident.

*American
bombed*

15 Nov

here U.N.

The ~~United Nations~~ Secretary-General announced a plan for the development of the Mekong River basin, which was to be carried out in cooperation with Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam, assisted by the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE).

1958

4 Jan

A large Communist guerrilla band attacked a plantation north of Saigon, reflecting a steady increase in Communist armed activity since mid-1957.

20 Feb

Fire swept the Gia Kiem refugee resettlement center leaving 20,000 persons homeless.

26 Feb

President Diem announced cabinet changes.

7 Mar

Premier Pham Van-dong of North Vietnam, in a letter to President Diem of South Vietnam, proposed a conference of the two governments to discuss reduction of their respective armed forces. Diem rejected the proposal on 16 March.

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1958 (Continued)

26 Apr

President Diem distributed land ownership certificates to 1,819 landless farmers. 8

9 May

Diem distributed more land to landless farmers. Approximately 35 percent of tenants became land owners. owners

17 May

The North Vietnamese Liaison Mission to the International Control Commission was withdrawn from Saigon.

25 Jun

A Cambodian royal proclamation, alleged that South Vietnamese troops "invaded" and occupied several Cambodian border villages and accused South Vietnam of 19 cases of violation of Cambodian territory since January 1957. The allegation was repudiated by the Foreign Minister of South Vietnam.

5 Aug

Ngo Dinh Nhu, brother of President Diem, went to Cambodia to try to settle the drawn-out border dispute.

10 Aug

A Large Communist guerrilla force attacked Tay Ninh.

10 Sep

France and South Vietnam signed ^{an} agreement under which France ^{would} provide aid for the Vietnam Government's agrarian reform program-- 1,490 million francs to enable the government ^{to} South Vietnam to pay ^{for?} French owned rice lands. X

26 Dec

Premier Pham Van-dong of North Vietnam proposed a conference to discuss limitation of military commitments and establishment of commercial and other exchanges between the north and the south.

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1959

22 Apr

The U. S. and South Vietnam signed an agreement providing for cooperation for research in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

13 May

Japan signed a World War II reparations and loan agreement with South Vietnam.

11 Jun

Laos and South Vietnam signed series of agreements, on judiciary cooperation, commercial exchanges and payments, and border control.

8 Jul

Communist guerillas attacked the Vietnamese military base at Bien Hoa, killing and wounding several MAAG personnel.

10 Jul

In a Belgian Communist publication Red Flag, Ho Chi Minh, head of the North Vietnamese Communist regime, stated "we are building socialism in Vietnam, but we are building it in only one part of the country, while in the other part we still have to direct and bring to a close the middle-class democratic and anti-imperialist revolution."

3 Aug

Premier Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia visited South Vietnam.

30 Aug

General elections. About 120 of 123 members elected were supporters of Diem.

30 Oct

Spokesman of the Vietnamese Army stated that a campaign against Communist guerrillas in the country's southernmost region, the Camau peninsula, resulted in heavy guerrilla losses.

Oct

Guerrilla activity was on the rise.

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~~UNCLASSIFIED~~1959 (Continued)

14 Nov

The French Minister of Finance and the Vietnamese Vice President initialed in Saigon agreements for the settlement of financial claims between the two countries and for a French loan of 7 billion (old) francs (about \$14 million) ^{and} a credit of 11 billion (old) francs (about \$22 million) for the purchase by South Vietnam of capital equipment.

1960

Jan

A Communist guerrilla band attacks Vietnamese army installation in Tay Ninh.

Mar

Communist guerrilla force attacks leprosarium in Bien Hoa province.

24 Mar

France and South Vietnam signed an agreement on outstanding financial and property issues and on trade relations.

17 Apr

North Vietnam protested to the chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference (Britain and the USSR) against a "formidable" increase of personnel in the American Military Assistance and Advisory Group in South Vietnam; and accused the U. S. of turning South Vietnam into "a U.S. military base for the preparation of a new war."

27 Apr

CINCPAC submitted a study on combatting insurgency in South Vietnam and recommended a Vietnamese national emergency organization and a coordinated national plan. (S)

30 Apr

An opposition group of 18, calling themselves the Committee for Progress and Liberty, sent a letter to President Diem demanding drastic economic, administrative, and military reforms.

2 May

CHMAAG was authorized to detail advisers to the level of armored, artillery and separate Marine Battalions. (S)

5 May

U. S. announced that at the request of the Government of South Vietnam, the U. S. MAAG would be increased by the end of 1960 from 327 to 685 members.

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1960 (Continued)

30 May

U. S. Special Forces teams arrived in South Vietnam to conduct training.

3 Jun

U. S. Development Loan Fund approved a \$9,700,000 loan to South Vietnam for the purchase of diesel locomotives and railway cars in the U. S.

18 Jun

The government announced that the Governor of Vinh Kong province and his driver were assassinated and a bodyguard wounded by communist terrorists.

26 Jun

The government announced that South Vietnamese troops killed 34 ~~XXX~~ Communist rebels in a battle along the Cambodian border on 22 June.

28 Jun

The South Vietnamese Defense Ministry announced that Government troops killed 41 Communist guerrillas and lost two soldiers in a clash west of Saigon.

29 Jun

Communist guerrillas ambushed and killed the inspector of South Vietnam's youth and sports organizations. "Each month, from 250 to 300 government officials are murdered by Red guerrillas...South Vietnam is clearly the target of a new Communist offensive..."
(Time, 7-11-60). *use*

30 Jun

CINCPAC submitted a draft plan for counterinsurgency operations by the Government of South Vietnam.

16 Jul

The Vietnamese Government announced that in clashes with Communist guerrillas on 9 July, government troops killed 76, wounded at least 100, and captured 28.

20 Jul

A Vietnam National Assembly delegation left Saigon for a six - week visit to the United States.

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1960 (Continued)

29 Oct

Twenty-six Communists were killed in an attack on a hospital in Quangnai Province.

2 Nov

The Development Loan Fund announced the signing of an agreement for a \$17,500,00 loan to South Vietnam. ~~The loan was~~ for the improvement and expansion of the water supply of the Saigon metropolitan area.

→ 5 Nov
10 Nov

The South Vietnam Government sent a letter to the International Control Commission charging that Communist attacks in the Kontum-Pleiku area in October (1) involved regular army forces from Communist North Vietnam through Laos, (2) constituted open aggression which was well prepared, commanded by high-ranking officers, and conducted by regular forces trained in North Vietnam, and (3) employed weapons made in North Vietnam and other Communist countries.

11 Nov

An attempted coup by rebel paratroopers who laid siege to Diem's palace failed after arrival in Saigon the following day of troops loyal to Diem. Communists were unable to exploit the situation. An estimated 200 soldiers and civilians were killed during the fighting.

13 Nov *add*

The U. S. State Department expressed satisfaction at the failure of the coup against President Diem and also hope that "his powers will be established on a wider basis with rapid implementation of radical reforms and energetic action against corruption-suspected elements."

16 Nov ~~Diem~~

Diem's brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, announced plans to appoint a new government and introduce a far-reaching reform program based on reports of the Ford Foundation and a French Study group.

22 Nov

A Diem decree transferred the Civil Guard from Interior to Defense and attached the Self-Defense Corps to the Director General of Civil Guard.

Sep-Dec

The beginnings of the Central Intelligence Organization. The training of rangers started in late months of 1960.

Vietnamese

21

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1961

CHMAAG was authorized by CINCPAC to detail advisers to battalion headquarters level and to command posts at lower levels when required. (\$)

6 Feb

7 Feb

10 Mar

24 Mar

The South Vietnamese government ordered all enlisted reserves into active service by 16 April.

27 Mar

Cambodian and South Vietnamese representatives reached agreement in Pnom Penh, Cambodia, on settling the Cambodian refugee problem which had strained relations between the two countries. Large numbers of Cambodians who settled in Vietnam crossed ~~the~~ into Cambodia during the past weeks complaining that both Communist guerrillas and Government forces have committed atrocities against them. a had

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1961 (Continued)

3 Apr

U. S. and South Vietnam signed a Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations in Saigon. *28*

4 Apr

Diem appealed to the International Control Commission to make an "immediate and energetic investigation" of growing Communist terrorism and subversion in South Vietnam.

6 Apr

The government of South Vietnam announced details of nine engagements between government forces and Viet Cong guerrillas in widely separated areas.

6 Apr

President Diem and Vice President Tho were elected by an overwhelming majority in Vietnam's presidential elections.

6 Apr

U. S. President John F. *ed* Kennedy and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan discuss (according to press reports from Washington) the steps to be taken to prevent a deterioration of the situation in South Vietnam.

7 Apr

U. S. State Department declared that she *was* ~~is~~ determined to continue strong support of South Vietnam. ✓

May

Border patrol became major study problem. A squadron of 25 AD-6 aircraft was delivered to South Vietnam. (S)

4 May

The chairman of U. S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator J. W. Fulbright, declared to the press that he would not oppose direct military intervention in South Vietnam and Thailand to counteract the threat of a Communist takeover in those countries. He also emphasized that he was opposed to the U. S. becoming the primary defensive factor in Southeast Asia over a long time, and said that role should be up to India and Japan.

that

SECRET

SECRET

1961 (Continued)

5 May

President Kennedy at a press conference declared that consideration was being given to the use of U. S. forces, if necessary, to help South Vietnam.

10 May

U. S. Ambassador F. E. Nolting presented his credentials to President Diem.

12 May

Vice President Johnson met with Diem who did not want U. S. combat troops but desired an increase in the MAAG. (S)

13 May

Additional U. S. military and economic aid was announced by joint communique.

20 May

The State Department transmitted to CINCPAC a 30-point "Presidential Program" ~~arrived~~ *aimed* at stiffening South Vietnamese resistance. (S)

20 May

~~MAAG had been held to a strength of 685.~~

As of this date, ~~MAAG~~ *MAAG* had been held to a strength of 685. (S)

29 May

President Diem reorganized his cabinet.

12 Jun

Communist Chinese Premier Chou En-lai and North Vietnamese Premier Phan Van-dong, ~~in Beijing~~ *in Peking* on a visit, accused the United States of aggression and intervention in South Vietnam.

19 Jun 1961

A crash program to bolster the internal security of South Vietnam was agreed upon between the government of Vietnam and a group of U. S. financial, economic, and military experts.

29 Jun

The International Control Commission decided it was competent to investigate North and South Vietnamese complaints of violation of the agreement on Vietnamese partition.

26
SECRET1961 (Continued)~~XXXXXX~~~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Aug

Vietnamese special forces were increased to 805 from the May figure of 305. (S)

1-4 Sep

A series of attacks were staged by Communist guerrillas in Kontum province. An Army Command communique stated that during the month of August there were 41 engagements between ~~XXXX~~ government forces and Communist rebels.

17 Sep

A British advisory mission on administrative and policy matters, headed by R. G. K. Thompson, former Permanent Defense Secretary in Malaya, left for South Vietnam.

18 Sep

Communist forces estimated at 1,500 men attacked and seized the capital of Phuoc Thanh province, only 60 miles from Saigon.

25 Sep

President Kennedy before U. N. General Assembly said that "the smoldering coals of war in Southeast Asia" are a threat to peace.

1 Oct

Adm Felt, at a SEATO meeting in Bangkok, said there was no immediate prospect of using U. S. troops to stop the Communist advance in Southeast Asia, but indicated that among the plans evolved for "every eventuality" some called for the use of U. S. troops.

2 Oct

President Diem declared at the opening of the National Assembly's budgetary session: "It is no longer a guerrilla war but one waged by an enemy who attacks us with regular units fully and heavily equipped and who seeks a strategic decision in Southeast Asia in conformity with the orders of the Communist international." The President also said that the U. S. committee headed by Dr. Eugene Staley recommended an increase in aid both for military measures and for economic and social development.

SECRET

1961 (Continued)

11 Oct

President Kennedy announced at a news conference that he was sending General Maxwell D. Taylor, his military adviser, to South Vietnam to investigate ~~there~~ the military situation *there* and to report on it to him personally.

18 Oct

General Taylor arrived Saigon.

19 Oct

Diem proclaimed a state of emergency.

24 Oct

South Vietnam made formal charges of ^{ag}gression against North Vietnam and demanded that the International Control Commission carry out an investigation of the leading role of North Vietnamese authorities in direct aggression aimed at conquering the South.

28 Oct

The South Vietnamese government announced that Cambodian and South Vietnamese troops clashed in An Giang province in the border region where Cambodian troops ^{had} crossed into Vietnamese territory.

Oct

By end of this month, mobile search and height finder radars and supporting communications were operating at Tan Son Nhut. (S)

8 Nov

CHMAAG submitted a plan for using rangers on border patrol. (S)

16 Nov

Following closely the ^{re}commendations in General Taylor's report, President Kennedy, with the approval of the National Security Council, decided to bolster South Vietnam's military strength, but not to commit U. S. combat forces at this time.

SECRET

SECRET

1961 (Continued)

17 Nov

Secretary of State Rusk called on the International Control Commission to look into the "determined and ruthless" Communist campaign to overthrow the South Vietnamese government.

20 Nov

Discussions were held between U. S. Ambassador Nolting and President Diem on measures to be taken by both governments to implement General Taylor's report on South Vietnam and on possible reforms in the Diem administration.

11 Dec ~~1961~~

The first contingent of U. S. military personnel--400 Army personnel with two helicopter companies--arrived in South Vietnam.

12 Dec

The International Control Commission in emergency session since arrival in Saigon of 33^{US} helicopters, considered disavowing the ~~Committee~~ ^{ITSC} in view of U. S. help to South Vietnam. (f)

15 Dec

President Kennedy pledged increased aid to South Vietnam.

16 Dec

At SECDEF Conference, CHMAAG estimated that one fourth of the South Vietnamese population supported the Communists and that another one fourth was on the fence. The Secretary of Defense stated that Jungle Jim (already in place) was cleared to operate. (S)

Dec

Diem was not enthusiastic about the outline plan for systematic action against the Viet Cong because he was still reluctant to delegate much authority and control of forces to his commanders. MAAG authorized strength at end of year was over 4,000. Army fixed wing company and headquarters, signal and maintenance units were in place. (S) *period*

1962

3 Jan

Sixteen C-123 aircraft were made available for combat airlift support in South Vietnam. (Operation Mule Train). (S)

SECRET

1962 (Continued)

4 Jan

A joint U. S.-South Vietnamese communique announced a "broad economic and social program (to raise living standards),... an intensification and expansion of efforts already made for the same purpose during the last two years... Measures to strengthen South Vietnam's defense in the military field are being taken simultaneously." *← guests*

8 Jan

Inauguration of the National Economic Council to advise the South Vietnamese government. ~~was announced~~ *was announced. ← add.* ✓

9 Jan

An increase in the South Vietnam Army ~~from~~ *to* 170,000 to 200,000 ~~was~~ *was* ✓ *announced.*

15 Jan

Two U. S. helicopter companies arrived in South Vietnam.

20 Jan

CINCPAC authorized MAAG advisers to go into the field with units they were advising. (S)

Jan

The press reported military activities against *the* Viet Cong *were* *pick-*ing up. *add*

Feb

American troops in Vietnam were authorized to "shoot first."

7 Feb

Two U. S. Army air support companies totaling 300 men arrived in Saigon, increasing (according to the NYTimes) the total of U. S. military personnel in South Vietnam to 4,000.

9 Feb

MAAG Vietnam ^{was} superseded by U. S. Military Assistance Command (USMACV) headed by General Paul D. Harkins.

SECRET

SECRET

1962 (Continued)

13 Feb

General Paul D. Harkins ^{out come} arrived in Saigon as COMUSMACV. ✓

19 Feb

SECDEF McNamara pointed out in ^a press statement that the struggle in Vietnam was not full-scale warfare but guerrilla warfare.

24 Feb

Peking Radio broadcast demands for withdrawal of U. S. personnel and equipment saying that ^h danger of war in South Vietnam was serious. This was followed up two days later by Soviet U. N. Ambassador Zorin ^{who said} at a press conference that the Americans were getting bogged down.

27 Feb

col Two fighter planes, piloted by members of the South Vietnam Air Force, bombed and strafed the Presidential Palace in Saigon for 25 minutes. President Diem and his staff were not injured. ✓

7 Mar

U. S. Operations Mission Director Arthur Z. Gardiner disclosed that the U. S. will spend \$200,000,000 to support South Vietnam's economy and ^{to} help raise living standards in 1962.

10 Mar

Washington announced that American pilots were flying combat missions in Vietnam. ✓

22 Mar

The first "clear-and-hold" operation got underway in Binh Duong Province. ^{add quotes + hyphens} little p. ✓

27 Mar

Rules of engagement were issued for engaging and destroying h hostile ^{direct} which might appear over South Vietnam. (S)

2 Apr

South Vietnam signed an agreement with ESSO for building an oil refinery. A Communique stated the new refinery would permit South Vietnam to save \$2.5 million in foreign currencies.

SECRET

1962 (Continued)

3 Feb

President Diem officially launched the Strategic Hamlet Program, aimed at removal of guerrilla control over the civilian population.

9 Apr

The leading elements of Marine Task Unit 203.5 (SHUFLY) landed at Soc Trang airstrip in the Mekong River Delta to aid South Vietnamese operations in the Mekong Delta Region. Combat support assault missions comprised the bulk of the helicopter effort in the Delta. In addition, evacuation, reconnaissance, liaison, logistic, and administrative flights were made throughout the summer monsoon season. (S)

15 Apr

HMM-362 (Rein), with 24 UH-34D helicopters and 3 O-1B observation aircraft arrived at the Soc Trang airstrip. (S)

16 Apr

Britain^{ain} rejected the Soviet proposal that Britain and the USSR jointly, as co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference, call on the U. S. to stop intervening in South Vietnam. Britain asked the USSR to join in appeal to North Vietnamese to desist from subversive activities in the South.

20 Apr

The National Assembly pledged full support to President Diem's plan to establish thousands of "strategic hamlets" in the Communist-infested Mekong Delta during the current year.

22 Apr¹⁹⁶² 31 Dec. 1963

While operating in the Mekong Delta and in the northern Mountains, the Marine task unit/element flew 32,357 helicopter hours, utilizing 500 Marines and 24 helicopters. The helicopters averaged about 1,600 hours and 2,600 sorties per month, and lifted an average of 7,300 passengers, 3,000 combat troops, 500,000 pounds of cargo, and 140 evacuees per month. The three O-1B aircraft flew 4,267 hours and the C-117D 1,516 hours. SHUFLY had logged 38,140 hours flight time. (S)

little M ✓
By the end of Dec 1963

22 Apr

HMM-362 performed its first combat support mission in South Vietnam, a coordinated troop lift with the Army's 57th Helicopter Company in support of the Vietnamese 7th Division at My Tho. HMM-362 lifted 399 troops from the loading point to the landing zones in 29 sorties. (S)

22-23 Apr

HMM-362 evacuated a U. S. Army adviser from the town of Vinh Long and 57 personnel from an outpost south of Ca Mau. A company of Vietnamese Marines was lifted to the outpost for security

31

Next Page

SECRET

1962 (Continued)

22-23 Apr (Cont.)

while the evacuation was in progress. (S)

24 Apr

Marine
 16 ~~HUS~~ helicopters lifted 591 troops into eight landing zones along two canals in the 21st Division area west of Can Tho, a town 33 miles northwest of Soc Trang, in an operation against a group of Viet Cong. (S)

26 Apr

Vietnamese
 Foreign Minister Vu Van Mau accused the Polish team on the International Control Commission of "acting more like a Communist delegation than a neutral body," and said the government is *was* considering boycotting the delegation.

1 May

A Marine airlift utilizing 24 ~~HUS~~ helicopters landed 281 troops in six zones near Can Tho. (S)

2 May

16 HUS and 1-OE lifted 432 troops 30 miles northwest of My Tho in a combined maneuver with the Army. (S)

9 May

At a meeting of the ANZUS (Australia-New Zealand - U.S. defense pact) Council in Canberra, Australia, ~~the~~ U. S. Secretary of State Rusk appealed for "a helping hand" in South Vietnam.

9 May

Heavy Viet Cong ground fire hit nine Marine helicopters during a landing at Cai Ngay. (S)

19 May

Nineteen Marine helicopters lifted 584 troops in three waves from Can Tho airfield and four HUS evacuated 36 seriously wounded troops to Soc Trang. (S)

22 May

D
 President ~~Xiem~~ promulgated the Protection of Morality Law, which prohibited all dancing and beauty contests, and made prostitution and "unnatural methods" of birth control illegal.

SECRET

SECRET

1962 (Continued)

23 May

HMM-362 performed its first night evacuation when two HUS transported two Vietnamese officers from a position about 30 miles southwest of Saigon to Saigon. (S)

25 May

TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON

CINCPAC deployed the 777th ~~TCS~~, making a total of 36 C-123s in South Vietnam. (S)

25 May

Canadian and Indian members of the International Control Commission for Vietnam found North Vietnam guilty of subversion and covert aggression against South Vietnam. ~~Polish~~ Polish delegation rejected the charge.

28 May

President ~~Xiem~~ ^D refused a U. S. proposal that \$1.5 million be set aside for direct aid by ~~Americans~~ for emergency counter-insurgency projects.

18 Jun

The International Control Commission investigated charges that South Vietnamese forces had violated the Cambodian border. Results were indecisive.

23 Jun

North Vietnam's Central Committee of the National Liberation Front ordered intensified attacks against the strategic hamlets in South Vietnam.

26 Jun

South Vietnam's National Assembly voted to extend its term of office by 1 year, to August 1963. The explanation given was that it was then impossible to hold elections because they would tie down troops needed against the Communist guerrillas.

2 Jul

The fourteen-nation Geneva Conference on Laos reconvened, and on 23 July the Foreign Ministers of the nations signed a declaration on the neutrality of Laos.

6 Jul

U. S. Secretary of Defense McNamara declared that, while a final victory over the Communists in South Vietnam was years away, he was encouraged by the increased effectiveness of U. S. aid to South Vietnamese forces.

SECRET

1962 (Continued)

10 Jul

Nineteen Marine helicopters lifted 968 troops to landing zones in the Ca Mau area. (S)

12 Jul

the Total Marine strength in Vietnam was 648.

17 Jul

Leader of the Communist-run Vietnam National Liberation Front, Nguyen Van Hieu (in Moscow for a World Peace Congress) called for the neutralization of South Vietnam similar to the 14-nation agreement on the neutrality of Laos.

20 Jul

Seventeen Marine ~~415~~ helicopters executed the first complete helicopter assault in South Vietnam during the hours of darkness. 192 troops were lifted from Ben Tre to the first objective, 148 from Moc Hoa to the second objective, and 154 troops landed 35 miles northeast of Moc Hoa. (S)

23 Jul

Leading elements of HMM-163 began to arrive at Soc Trang to relieve HMM-362; the turnover was completed in eight days. Aircraft and equipment were retained. (S)

24 Jul

U. S. Secretary of Defense McNamara in Honolulu, Hawaii, conferred with the commander of U. S. military forces in Southeast Asia, General Harkins, and U. S. Ambassador to South Vietnam Nolting.

1 Aug

HMM-163 relieved HMM-362 which had flown 5,262 hours ⁱⁿ and 4,439 sorties. (S)

Aug

During stepped-up operations against a Viet Cong offensive, HMM-162 flew 2,543 hours, a record for a Marine squadron flying rotary wing aircraft. (S)

19 Aug *add date*

U. S. aid mission in Saigon disclosed that the South Vietnamese government had agreed to embark on a program of deficit financing to help pay for the struggle against the guerrillas.

SECRET

1962 (Continued)

25 Aug

The U. S. announced that it would provide \$10 million for emergency projects to help refugees in the guerrilla war. The press reported an improved promotion system for military officers.

26 Aug

out come
Dr. Pham Huy, CG, President of the banned Free Democratic Party, announced in Tokyo, that he had been clandestinely in South Vietnam and that a meeting of the opposition to the Diem government had been held on a junk off the coast of South Vietnam. The meeting appointed a 30-member National Council of the Revolution to head the anti-Communist, anti-Diem movement. ✓

Sep

South Vietnamese successes forced Ho Chi Minh to change his timetable. In 1959, he had predicted defeat of South Vietnam in one year. Recently revised estimates raised the goal from 15 to 20 years.

11 Sep

Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia warned that if South Vietnam undertook more incursions into Cambodian territory, he would break off diplomatic relations with South Vietnam and establish diplomatic relations with Communist North Vietnam. X

12 Sep

General Taylor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited the Central Highland of South Vietnam where mountain peasants (montagnards) were being trained by the U. S. Special Forces to fight the Viet Cong.

15 Sep-21 Sep

The Marine task unit (SHUFLY) moved north to Danang, less than 90 miles from the North Vietnam border, to operate in support of the Vietnamese I Corps. Logistic resupply of mountain outposts became the primary mission. (S)

18 Sep

Fourteen Marine UH-34D helicopters ~~of 1st MAW~~ departed Danang on the first combat support troop lift in the north. They carried troops of the 21st Division, I Corps, to two landing zones. (S)

35

35

SECRET

SECRET

1962 (Continued)

26 Sep

Twenty-two helicopters lifted two companies of Vietnamese special forces from Danang to Landing Zone ALFA. This was the first time artillery was used to support a Marine helicopter operation in South Vietnam. (S)

29 Sep

Nineteen Marine helicopters lifted 230 troops into four landing zones in two waves. (S)

3 Oct

Diem warned the National Assembly that South Vietnam faced a long struggle against Communist imperialism.

6 Oct

The Marines lost their first
~~The Marines lost their first~~ helicopter in South Vietnam. One UH-34D with maintenance and medical personnel aboard crashed 15 miles southeast of Tam Ky. The crash was not the result of enemy action. (S)

8 Oct

~~THE U. S. PUBLISHED AMERICAN WAR CASUALTIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM: BETWEEN 31 DEC 1961 AND 1 OCT 1962, 46 AMERICANS DEAD, 56 AMERICANS SICK OR INJURED.~~

8 OCT

The U. S. published American war casualties in South Vietnam: between 31 Dec 1961 and 1 Oct 1962, 46 Americans dead, ~~56~~ 56 Americans sick or injured.

26 Oct

The National Assembly extended by one year President Diem's emergency powers to rule by decree.

Oct

Aviator body armor for helicopter crews was procured and put into use by Marine squadrons. (S) ✓

3 Nov

Eighteen helicopters lifted a total of 563 troops in three waves into a landing zone 28 miles southwest of Danang. (S)

6 Nov

TU 79.3.5 was redesignated Task Element (TE) 79.3.3.6, but the form of the organization remained the same. (S)

SECRET

1962 (Continued)

8 Nov

South Vietnam broke diplomatic relations with Laos as a result of Laos' establishment of diplomatic relations with North Vietnam.

6 Dec

The South Vietnamese government protested to the International Control Commission against the introduction of Chinese-made weapons and ammunition. A large cache was discovered by a patrol in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

8 Dec

President Diem signed a Reorganization of the Army Act, ^{which} created a fourth Army ~~corps~~ ^{corps} area and made several changes in military command posts.

12 Dec

The South Vietnamese ^{government} announced plans to transfer provincial and district administration from military to civilian control.

29 Dec

^{had} The government in Saigon announced that 4,077 strategic hamlets ~~have~~ been completed (of a total of 11,182 to be built) and that 39% of South Vietnam's population was then living in these communities.

End 1962

An intensive program of training and equipping the Vietnamese Air Force was well advanced. Communications and intelligence nets were in operation. The Tactical Air Control System and airlift system was improving. (S)

were

SECRET

TOP SECRET

1963

2 Jan

A Viet Cong guerrilla force estimated at 200 and armed with automatic weapons engaged in an all-day battle against 1,200 government troops and inflicted heavy casualties at Ap Bac, in the Mekong River Delta 35 miles southwest of Saigon.

2 Jan

JCS approved aircraft augmentation for FARM GATE (145 U. S. personnel and the Vietnamese Air Force performed operational missions and conducted training in night attacks, flare dropping, outpost air support, free fall resupply, and night area reconnaissance). (TS) ✓

4 Jan

CINCPAC stated to JCS that he favored th introduction of jet aircraft into South Vietnam. (TS)

11 Jan

HMM-162 relieved HMM-163 which had flown 10,869 hours and 15,200 sorties. (S)

19 Jan

Eighteen Marine helicopters lifted 299 troops into three landing zones 15-20 miles southwest of Danang. (S)

19 Jan

Two additional surgical teams arrived in South Vietnam to be located at Pleiku and Danang. (TS)

20 Jan

st Press reports stated that a captured Viet Cong document (dated September 1962 and written by a senior Viet Cong official) outlined the future of the war in Vietnam as a long and difficult struggle. Reviewing the expansion of U. S. military assistance to South Vietnam within the last year, the document said that the U. S. was the Viet Cong's main enemy and that U. S. presence would drive many uncommitted Vietnamese to the Communist side. The document foresaw a negotiated settlement of the war patterned on the Laotian agreement and it stressed the importance of understanding so-called "transitional steps" to the achievement of victory. ✓

23 Jan

COMUSMACV informed CINCPAC that Laos and Cambodia border st control with South Vietnam remained ineffective. (TS)

TOP SECRET

1963 (Continued)

26 Jan

General Wheeler, Chief of Staff, USA, said "It will take a long, vigorous effort to turn the tide once and for all" in the Vietnamese war.

1 Feb

CINCPAC directed COMUSMACV to set up a program and hold press conferences to improve relations with the press. (TS)

1 Feb

The inter-ministerial council for strategic hamlets approved a hamlet school plan to build 1,300 new classrooms and train teachers. ✓

1 Feb

U. S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk said (at a press conference) that there are "both pluses and minuses" in the U. S. aid program to South Vietnam and he added that "there is no more difficult, disagreeable and frustrating type of operation than those that are required to deal with guerrilla action supported from outside of a country, such as we find in that country."

2 Feb

Pham Huy Co, president of the National Council of the Vietnamese Revolution, claimed in Paris that his organization was the source of terrorist bombings which had occurred in Saigon and its suburbs since mid-January. He said the aim of these activities was to hasten the overthrow of the Diem government.

16 Feb

the In the Times of Vietnam ^a An editorial attacked U. S. press and demanded U. S. consider censorship of American dispatches from South Vietnam, accused U. S. correspondents of helping Communist-guerrillas, and of responsibility for the deaths of U. S. and Vietnamese engaged in the war. ✓

16 Feb

Rules of engagement for U. S. helicopters ^{used} expanded. (S)

19 Feb

JCS approved the deployment to South Vietnam of the 114th Airmobile Company and the 330th Transportation Squadron. (TS)

TOP SECRET

1963 (Continued)

21 Feb

A supplemental Air Force Military Assistance Training Plan for Vietnam was approved at \$1,435,670. (TS)

24 Feb

U. S. Senate study group, headed by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, submitted a report on Southeast Asia to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The report warned that the fight against Communist guerrillas in Vietnam was becoming an "American war" which was not justified by U. S. security interests and called for a "through reassessment of our over-all security requirements on the Southeast Asian mainland." While expressing doubts concerning the results of \$5 billion in U. S. aid to Southeast Asia since 1950, the report recommended "extreme caution" in reducing military and economic assistance in this area. ✓

25 Feb

General O'Donnell at Saigon said that the U. S. would not send jet fighter planes to Vietnam to help in the war against Communist guerrillas. (TS)

6 Mar

The Vietnamese Navy took over patrol of South Vietnam's coast from the U. S. 7th fleet. ~~TS~~

9 Mar

The Soviet defense ministry newspaper Red Star charged that "American interventionists have again used poison substances in South Vietnam" resulting in the killing of hundreds of people. ✓
On the same day, U. S. Defense Department denied the Soviet charges. The chemicals then in use were described as "non-toxic to humans when used in the prescribed manner, that is, sprayed on trees and under bushes in the open air." ✓

13 Mar

JCS approved a CINCPAC recommendation that the strength of Military Assistance Program supported forces be increased from 31,000 to 36,000 for the Civil Guard and from 80,000 to 104,000 for the Self Defense Force. (TS) ✓

13 Mar

While guarding the crash site of an Army OV-1 Mohawk, one Marine helicopter received three hits from Viet Cong fire. Three Marine UH-34Ds were called upon for close air support. This is the first reported instance of UH-34Ds providing close air support. (S) ✓

TOP SECRET

1963 (Continued)

8-10 Apr

the SEATO Ministerial Council meeting in Paris issued ^acommunique on 10 April expressing "concern over the continuing and widening threats to the security" of the treaty area.

13 Apr

Sixteen Marine helicopters ^{X-RAY} lifted 435 Vietnamese troops in three waves in Landing Zones XRAY and ZULU. For the first time U. S. Army helicopters escorted the Marine transport aircraft. Subsequently, a detachment of six of the armed Army helicopters remained at Danang to provide escorts and support to the Marine task element ^(S)

27 Apr

The Vietnam press reported that since 18 Feb [sic] 3,448 Viet Cong rallied under the Chieu Hoi Program. ✓

17 Apr

President ^DXiem proclaimed an amnesty program (Chieu Hoi) for Viet Cong defectors.

27 Apr

In support of OPERATION BACK PHUONG XI, 21 Marine UH-34D's ^{See card} was shot down by Viet Cong machine gunfire. ✓

1 May

Military operations within five kilometers of the Cambodian border were permitted in South Vietnam. (TS)

2 May

JCS temporarily suspended herbicide operations in Vietnam. (TS)

6 May

Secretary McNamara at a conference in Hawaii stated that the training of Vietnamese Armed Forces was to be accelerated to build in-country capability and permit threlease of U. S. units.

7 May

New guidelines for the use of herbicides were established ^{by Cinc Pac} for defoliation and crop destruction in Vietnam. (TS) ✓

TOP SECRET

1963 (Continued)

8 May

Riots erupted in ^{the} Northern city of Hue, former imperial capital, 400 miles north of Saigon. ~~Involved Buddhist celebration of the anniversary of Buddha's birth and the flying of flags on the special day.~~ Twelve persons were killed, including some children. Buddhist leaders charged that government troops fired into the crowd, while government officials said that Communists were responsible for the explosion.

9 May

JCS lifted its 2 May suspension of herbicide operations. (TS)

9 May

South Vietnam concluded an agreement with the U. S. in which South Vietnam would finance the local cost (\$17 million) of operating its strategic hamlet program and transporting U. S. economic and military equipment, food and other supplies to these settlements.

11 May

CINCPAC authorized conduct of ~~psychological warfare~~ missions for FARM GATE aircraft. (TS)

15 May

Buddhist leaders presented a list of demands to President Diem.

22 May

President Kennedy said the U. S. "would withdraw troops, any number of troops, any time the government of South Vietnam would suggest it. The day after it was suggested, we would have some troops on the way home."

29 May

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

The Department of Defense notified CINCPAC of the decision not to introduce jets in South Vietnam. (TS)

3 Jun

Buddhist demonstrations broke out in Hue. Martial law was swiftly imposed.

5 Jun

CINCPAC directed COMUSMACV not to use U. S. owned aircraft to transport Vietnamese troops to control ^{the} Buddhist demonstrations in Hue. (TS)

TOP SECRET

1963 (Continued)

7 Jun

President Diem (in a broadcast) appealed for calm and made a partial concession to Buddhist demands in that the government accepted responsibility for the incidents in Hue.

8 Jun

HMM-261 relieved HMM-162. (S)

10 Jun

General Harkins ordered U. S. military advisers not to report to Vietnamese units to which they were assigned if such units were used to quell Buddhist demonstrations. (TS)

11 Jun

A Buddhist monk committed suicide by burning himself to death with gasoline in front of the Cambodian legation.

14 Jun

Press reports stated that the U. S. had warned President Diem that unless he took immediate steps to alleviate Buddhist grievances the U. S. would publicly condemn the treatment they have received.

15 Jun

A tentative agreement was reached between Buddhist leaders and representatives of President Diem to end alleged religious discrimination and meet Buddhist demands.

16 Jun

Government troops used tanks, tear gas, clubs, firearms, and barbed wire to suppress the riots in the largest anti-government riots to date which followed an agreement between Buddhist leaders and the government. ✓

27 Jun *although there had been*

RIOTERS

President Kennedy announced the appointment of Henry Cabot Lodge, Ambassador to South Vietnam, effective September 1963, to succeed Frederick Nolting.

~~U. S. representatives were assaulted by Vietnamese police.~~

1963 (Continued)

5 Jul

The trial of nineteen Vietnamese paratroopers, charged with leading a revolt against the Diem government in November 1960, began in Saigon. ✓
Prosecutor accused former U. S. Embassy personnel of aiding the conspiracy to overthrow regime. This was denied by the United States. ✓

7 Jul

~~U. S. correspondents were assaulted by Vietnamese police.~~ out ✓

7 Jul

Nine correspondents for U. S. news services in South Vietnam, including seven Americans, were physically assaulted by secret policemen armed with rocks at the scene of a memorial service for a Buddhist monk who committed suicide on 11 June.

9 Jul

The trial of thirty-four civilians, including the leader of the Free Democratic Party, opened before a military tribunal in Saigon. ✓
Nguyen Tuong Tam, a Buddhist and a prominent author, scheduled to be tried, committed suicide by poison. ✓

11 Jul

U. S. Ambassador Nolting returned to South Vietnam after consultations in Washington and issued a statement assuring continued U. S. support to President Diem and warned that "unity of purpose and purpose in action" must not be weakened by internal dissension. ✓

15 Jul

The Buddhist supreme leader, in a letter to President Diem, charged the government with bad faith concerning the agreement of 15 June and said that there had been "acts of a terrorist nature" against Buddhists throughout the country.

17 Jul

Armed policemen used clubs against 1,000 Buddhists protesting religious discrimination in front of a pagoda in Saigon.

1963 (Continued)

17 Jul

President Kennedy said that the religious crisis in South Vietnam was interfering with the war effort against the Viet Cong guerrillas and expressed hope that President Diem and Buddhist leaders would "reach an agreement on the civil disturbances and also in respect for the rights of others." ✓

18 Jul

President Diem asked Buddhist leaders to meet with government officials and said that he had instructed a special committee to cooperate with Buddhists in implementing an earlier agreement and that all government officials had been instructed to cooperate actively in this effort. However, Buddhist leaders indicated an unwillingness to negotiate with government officials until certain conditions were fulfilled.

23 Jul

Militiamen, war veterans, and widows paraded through the streets of Saigon to demonstrate support for government policies in the Buddhist dispute.

30 Jul

Memorial services for Thich Quang Duc who committed suicide to protest alleged persecution by the government were attended by thousands of Buddhists in Saigon, Hue and other cities. The peaceful demonstrations were staged without government interference.

1 Aug

MmeX Ngo Dinh Nhu, sister-in-law of President Diem, declared in an interview for television: "The only thing that they [the Buddhists] have done . . . [is that they] have barbecued one of their monks whom they have intoxicated. And even that barbecuing was not even with self-sufficient means, because they used imported gasoline." ✓

3 Aug

Ngo Dinh Nhu, brother of President Diem, said that if the dispute with the Buddhists was not settled "it will lead toward a coup d' etat" which would be anti-American, anti-Buddhist and against "weakness by the government." ✓

4 Aug

A young Buddhist monk suddenly imolated himself during a hunger strike at Phan Tiet. ✓

SECRET

1963 (Continued)

11-18 Aug

Marine helicopters flew 356 sorties, carried 1,008 passengers and 107,340 pounds of cargo during this period. (S)

15-18 Aug

A large retrograde movement involving 1,300 South Vietnamese troops with 105mm artillery, equipment, and supplies was accomplished. This operation marked the first use of the Marine doctrine of the Tactical Air Controller (Airborne), ~~and~~ and an Air Liaison Officer (ALO) or (FAC) (Forward Air Controller) for ground-air coordination. (S) C

17 Aug

Forty-seven faculty members at the University of Hue resigned to protest Government "indifference" in the Buddhist crisis and the dismissal of the university's rector.

18-24 Aug

Marine UH-34D helicopters flew 369 hours, 703 sorties, and carried 1723 passengers and 42,312 pounds of cargo. No helicopters were damaged during the period. (S)

20 Aug

Viet Cong guerrillas overran and burned 137 homes in the Ben Tuong strategic hamlet, 30 miles north of Saigon. It was the showplace of the strategic hamlet program.

21 Aug

Martial law was proclaimed throughout South Vietnam by President Diem after hundreds of armed police and government troops raided the main Buddhist Xa Loi pagoda in Saigon.

22 Aug

Foreign Minister Vu Van Mau, a Buddhist, ~~submitted~~ ^{submitted} his resignation to President Diem. Also on the same day, South Vietnam's Ambassador to the U. S., Tran Van Chuong, father of Mme Ngo Dinh Nhu, resigned. Both resigned in disapproval of government policies toward Buddhists. ✓

23 Aug

The U. S. State Department announced no change in U. S. basic policy in prosecution of war against Viet Cong. ~~the~~ ^{the}

SECRET

TOP
SECRET

1963 (Continued)

23 Aug

Student demonstrations at Saigon University in opposition to the government dispersed before police arrived on the scene. But the following day there were direct clashes, and many students were jailed.

24 Aug

Diem declared to the press "I trust in the Army, and in fact I maintain control over the situation."

25 Aug

CINCPAC directed TG 76.5 to maneuver near ^{the} Vietnamese coast. (TS)

26 Aug

U. S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge presented his credentials to President Diem and conferred with him at a second meeting on the same day.

26 Aug

The U. S. State Department declared "Present information is that the top leadership of the Vietnamese Army was not aware of the plans to attack the pagodas, much less the brutal manner in which it was carried out."

27 Aug

Cambodia broke diplomatic relations with South Vietnam but stated intentions to continue trade.

28 Aug

The JCS directed CINCPAC to prepare for evacuation of U. S. non-combatants in South Vietnam. (TS)

28 Aug

CINCPAC cancelled all scheduled South Vietnam visit clearances. (TS)

29 Aug

CINCPAC had 36 C-130 and 11 KC-130 aircraft ~~ready~~ ready for air evacuation of South Vietnamese non-combatants. (TS)

29 Aug

French President de Gaulle declared that France was able "to appreciate the role these people would be capable of playing

TOP SECRET

1963 (Continued)

29 Aug (Cont.)

in the current situation of Asia for its own progress and for the benefit of international understanding once it was able to exercise its activity in independence from foreign influence, in internal peace and unity, and in concord with its neighbors? ✓

30 Aug

The French Ambassador to the U. S. declared after meeting with the U. S. Secretary of State that General de Gaulle's statement is part of a long-range French political solution which would reunify North and South Vietnam in "independence and neutrality" and that his declaration was not meant as a slap at the U. S.

30 Aug

TG's 76.5 and 77.7 were in place off Saigon. (TS)

1 Sep

Three Buddhist monks ~~X~~ took refuge in U. S. ^{AID} ~~aid~~ mission headquarters in Saigon. ✓

1-7 Sep

Marine helicopters flew 553 sorties carrying 774 passengers and 117,700 pounds of cargo during this period. (S)

2 Sep

President Kennedy declared that the U. S. is prepared to continue to assist South Vietnam "but I don't think that the war can be won unless the people support the effort and, in my opinion, in the last two months, the government has gotten out of touch with the people."

2 Sep

Times of Vietnam charged that the U. S. agents planned a coup d'etat for 28 Aug to overthrow President Diem.

3 Sep

CINCPAC terminated alert operations commenced on 25 Aug. (TS)

3 Sep

A group of 56 African and Asian U. N. members decided to ask the U. N. General Assembly to consider "the question of the violation of human rights in South Vietnam" at its next session.

SECRET

1963(Continued)

5 Sep

President Diem declared that "the government considered the [Buddhist] affair closed." He denied reports that his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu had taken control of the government. On the same day, Ngo Dinh Nhu said "I have never controlled the government."

7 Sep

About 800 high school students were arrested by armed police and Special Forces (secret police) while engaged in anti-government demonstrations in Saigon. For the first time in student demonstrations the slogans they shouted included criticism of the United States. ✓

8 Sep

David Bell, U. S. ^{AID} ~~Aid~~ Administrator warned that the U. S. Congress might cut back aid to South Vietnam unless the Diem government changed its policies. ✓

8 Sep

Press reports emanating from "highly reliable sources" in Washington stated that the U. S. CIA had decided to continue making regular monthly payments of \$250,000 to support the Special Forces of Col Le Quang Tung in South Vietnam.

8-14 Sep

Marine UH-34's flew 698 sorties for 340.7 hours, carried 1,825 ~~pa~~ passengers and 104,805 pounds of cargo, made 73 air evacuations, and received five enemy hits during the ~~evacuation~~ ^{is} period. (S) ✓

9 Sep

U. S. Ambassador Lodge conferred with President Diem. The New York Times reported that the United States had directly advised President Ngo Dinh Diem... that it regards the removal of his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu as vital.

9 Sep

President Kennedy said that "it would not be helpful at this time" to reduce U. S. aid to South Vietnam, because ~~that might~~ ^{it might} bring about a collapse similar to that of the Chiang Kai-shek government in China after World War II.

SECRET

1963 (Continued)

10 Sep

A resolution adopted by the 3d National Congress of the Lao Dong Party declared clearly that an "immediate task" of the "revolutionary struggle of our compatriots in the South" was to overthrow President Diem's government.

10 Sep

U. S. Senator Frank Church (Dem., Idaho) introduced a resolution (sponsored by 18 Democrats and four Republicans) in the Senate which called for ending all U. S. military and economic aid to South Vietnam and withdrawal of U. S. troops unless the Diem government abandoned its policy of "cruel repressions."

13 Sep

Prince Souvanna Phouma of Cambodia supported ^{French} President de Gaulle's proposal for a neutral and united Vietnam.

14 Sep

A presidential decree announced ^{the} end of martial law on 16 September and elections for the National Assembly ~~to be held~~ ^{for} on 27 September.

15-21 Sep

Marine helicopters flew 710 sorties for 347.2 hours, carried 1,776 ~~passengers~~ and 91,743 pounds of cargo and received no enemy hits. 33 evacuees were also lifted (S)

16 Sep

Fourteen Afro-Asian nations demanded a debate in the U. N. General Assembly opening its fall session on 17 September on the "ruthless" suppression of Buddhist rights in South Vietnam.

16 Sep

Eighteen Marine UH-34Ds lifted 387 troops and 19,125 pounds of cargo on a strike mission. One helicopter crashed in the landing zone ~~at the destination~~ 25 miles west-southwest of Hue. (S)

20 Sep

U. S. Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield speaking in the Senate called on all U. S. agencies in South Vietnam to give full support to U. S. Ambassador Lodge. Observers interpreted the speech as being directed against the CIA and some elements in the American military mission to Vietnam.

SECRET

1963(Continued)

21-27 Sep

Marine HU-34D's flew 335.8 hours for 647 sorties, carried 1,637 passengers and 68,065 pounds of cargo. During this period the helicopters received no damage from enemy fire. Fifty-one evacuees were also lifted. (S) ✓

21 Sep

President Kennedy ordered Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and General Maxwell D. Taylor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to go the South Vietnam to review the military efforts against the Communist Viet Cong. ✓

22 Sep

Mme Ngo Dinh Nhu, sister-in-law of President Diem, declared that junior U. S. Army officers in South Vietnam are irresponsible "little soldiers of fortune."

24 Sep

Secretary Defense, McNamara and General Taylor arrived in South Vietnam. ✓

27 Sep

Elections were held for the 123-member National Assembly. All candidates were approved in advance by the government; many were unopposed, including President Diem's brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, and his wife, ~~Mme Nhu~~ ^{Mme} ~~Mme Nhu~~. ✓

28 Sep-4 Oct

Marine helicopters flew 306.5 hours, 517 sorties, lifted 850 passengers and 99,995 pounds of cargo during this period. Forty-four evacuees also lifted. (S) ✓

1 Oct

HMM-361 relieved HMM-261. (S)

2 Oct

Secretary of Defense McNamara and General Taylor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reported to President Kennedy and the National Security Council on their mission to South Vietnam. The statement said that the U. S. will continue its "policy of working with the people and government of South Vietnam to deny this country to communism and to suppress the externally stimulated and supported insurgency of the Viet Cong as promptly as possible." ✓

TOP
SECRET1963 (Continued)

5-11 Oct

During this period Marine helicopters flew 8772.9 hours, 618 sorties and carried 894 passengers and 169,945 pounds of cargo. Twenty-four evacuees were also lifted (S)

5 Oct

A Buddhist monk burned himself to death in Saigon -- the sixth such suicide since 11 June. Three U. S. journalists who saw the suicide were beaten by police.

5 Oct

John H. Richardson, head of U. S. CIA operations in Saigon, ^{was} recalled to Washington.

7 Oct

Mme Ngo Dinh Nhu, sister-in-law of President Diem, arrived in New York to begin a three-week unofficial visit to the U. S. ✓

8 Oct

The U. N. General Assembly agreed to send a fact-finding mission to South Vietnam to investigate charges of ~~government~~ oppression of Buddhists. The Diem government on 4 October had invited the U. N. to send such a mission.

8 Oct

Two Marine UH-34D's were lost while on a mission to the site of a Vietnamese Air Force T-28 crash. (S) ✓

10 Oct

The JCS authorized normal travel of dependents to South Vietnam. (TS)

12-18 Oct

Marine helicopters flew 334.8 hours in 673 sorties to lift 1402 passengers and 116,973 pounds of cargo. Four hits from enemy fire were sustained during this period. Thirty-six evacuees were also lifted. (S) ✓

17 Oct

Ngo Dinh Nhu declared to the press that he could not understand why the U. S. had "initiated a process of desintegration in Vietnam" and again accused CIA of staging a coup d' etat against the Diem Government. ✓

SECRET

1963 (Continued)

19-25 Oct

During this period Marine UH-34D's flew 61.2 hours, 88 sorties to lift 58 passengers, ~~and~~ 12,340 pounds of cargo, ~~Three~~ ^{and three} evacuees. ~~were also lifted.~~ (S)

21 Oct

It was disclosed in Washington and Saigon that the U. S. will withhold financial aid to the Special Forces of Col Le Quang Tung as long as they are not used to fight Communist guerrillas.

24 Oct

Three Marine helicopters received one hit each from Viet Cong ^{fire} while at a landing zone. (S)

26 Oct-1 Nov

Marine helicopters flew 326.8 hours in 589 sorties to lift, 1050 passengers, 26 evacuees, and 159,700 pounds of cargo. (S)

27 Oct

U. N. fact-finding mission on the Buddhist situation in South Vietnam arrived in Saigon, and on the ~~next~~ day conferred with President Diem and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu.

27 Oct

next

Buddhist monk burned himself to death in Saigon -- the seventh such suicide since 11 June.

31 Oct

Viet Cong guerrillas attacked an armored train north of Saigon, inflicted heavy casualties on government troops, and seized a large number of weapons.

1 Nov

A military coup, organized by ~~the~~ key generals of the armed forces, erupted against the Diem regime. Rebels lay siege to the Presidential Palace in Saigon which was captured the following morning. President Diem and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, escaped from the palace, but a few hours later were taken by the rebels, and while being transported in an armored carrier to rebel headquarters, they were assassinated. A proclamation broadcast by the leaders of the coup (a Council of Generals, headed by MajGen Duong Van Minh) declared that they have "no political ambitions" and that the fight against the Communists must be carried on to a successful conclusion.

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SECRET

SECRET

1963 (Continued)

2 Nov

Military leaders organized a provisional government with former Vice President Nguyen Ngoc Tho, a Buddhist, as Premier. The Constitution was suspended and the National Assembly dissolved. Buddhists, students and other political prisoners arrested by the former regime were released.

2 Nov

CINCPAC directed normal operations for forces alerted, with the exception of TG 76.5, TG 77.5 and 77.7 (S)

4 Nov

Premier Nguyen Ngoc Tho announced the formation of a mixed military-civilian cabinet which had been approved by the military leaders.

5 Nov

General Minh, as head of the Military Revolutionary Council, issued a decree covering a provisional constitution.

7 Nov

CINCPAC released CVA TG 77.5 from operations off South Vietnam to normal operations and training. (S)

8 Nov

Secretary of State Rusk rejected French President de Gaulle's proposals for a neutral, independent Vietnam, stating that the result would be a Communist Vietnam.

8 Nov

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced a Food for Peace sale to South Vietnam of \$4.7 million worth of agricultural commodities for local currency.

8 Nov

Nine Marine UH-34D ^{remove 's} helicopters lifted 111 troops on a strike mission. (S) ✓

9-15 Nov

During this period, Marine helicopters flew 281.0 hours in 588 sorties to lift 1476 passengers, 11 evacuees, and 151,850 pounds of cargo (S)

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SECRET

SECRET

1963 (Continued)

9 Nov

The U. S. announced resumption of its commodity-import aid to South Vietnam, suspended since August.

9 Nov

CINCPAC released TG 76.5 and 77.7 from operations off South Vietnam to normal operations and training. (S)

13 Nov

General Harkins stated, in an interview in Saigon, that the overthrow of the Diem regime would have little over-all effect on the military campaign against the Viet Cong.

14 Nov

President Kennedy, in his news conference, stated his confidence in General Harkins and denied reports that Harkins "lost his usefulness in Vietnam because of his identification with the Diem regime." ✓

15 Nov

U. S. military spokesman in Saigon reported that 1,000 U. S. servicemen would be withdrawn from South Vietnam, beginning 3 December.

15 Nov

The Hoa Hao sect announced support for the new government.

16-22 Nov

During this period Marine helicopters flew 224.4 hours in 497 sorties, to lift 15 evacuees, 1,391 passengers, and 106,675 pounds of cargo. (S)

18 Nov

France recognized the new government of South Vietnam.

20 Nov

Secretary of Defense McNamara and Secretary of State Rusk conferred in Honolulu, Hawaii with Ambassador Lodge and General Harkins.

22 Nov

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. His successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, affirmed on 24 November the U. S.'s intention to continue its military and economic support of South Vietnam's struggle against the Communist Viet Cong. ✓

SECRET

1963 (Continued)

22 Nov 63 V

The South Vietnam^{ose} government dismissed 31 high-ranking military officers for having actively supported the Diem regime. ✓

23-29 Nov

Marine helicopters flew 178.8 hours in 378 sorties to lift an unreported number of passengers, 6 evacuees and 43,720 pounds of cargo, during this period. (S) ~~XXXXXX~~ SIX

30 Nov-6 Dec

During this period, Marine UH-34D's flew^{ew} 55.5 hours in 119 sorties to lift 326 passengers, 5 evacuees, and 34,870 pounds of cargo. (S)

3 Dec

Cambodian Prince Sihanouk proposed a neutral confederation of Cambodia and South Vietnam.

7-13 Dec

During this period Marine helicopters flew 286.4 hours in 571 sorties to lift 1,321 passengers, 20 evacuees, and 291,901 pounds of cargo. (S)

9 Dec

MajGen Minh stated that he did not think an international conference on Cambodian neutrality "would be of any use."

9 Dec

Nine Marine UH-34D's lifted 239 troops from An Diem to Bolohein. (S)

11 Dec

The South Vietnamese government closed three ~~new~~ newspapers for a "disloyal attitude."

14 Dec

U. S. military spokesman in Saigon reported stepped-up guerrilla attacks on hamlets, outposts and patrols in November, estimated government casualties at 2,800 and Viet Cong losses at 2,900. He also reported that enough weapons were captured by the Viet Cong to arm five 300-man battalions. ✓

15 Dec

The South Vietnamese government announced the dispatch of a diplomatic mission to Cambodia.

55-56

SECRET

SECRET

1963 (Continued)

19-20 Dec

Secretary of Defense McNamara and Director of CIA, John A. McCone, were in Saigon to evaluate the new government's war efforts against the Viet Cong. ✓

20 Dec

Nineteen Marine UH-34D helicopters lifted 236 troops and 7,800 pounds of cargo from Talon to Hatan. (S)

21-27 Dec

During this period Marine ~~UH-34D~~ helicopters flew 258.7 hours in 454 sorties to lift 117 passengers, 28 evacuees, and 92,595 pounds of cargo. Two hits were received from enemy fire. (S)

25 Dec

Forty Orphans were entertained on Christmas day by the U. S. Marines at Danang.

24 Dec

Twelve Marine UH-34D's lifted 247 troops and 7,575 pounds of cargo in support of a troop exchange. (S)

27 Dec

MajGen Duong Van Minh, leader of the military junta, accompanied by government members and Ambassador Lodge, began a tour of the provinces to rally popular support for the government in its fight against the Viet Cong.

28 Dec-3 Jan 1964

During this period Marine helicopters flew 214.3 hours in 364 sorties to lift 1,150 passengers, 71,860 pounds of cargo and 14 evacuees. Two hits were sustained from enemy fire. (S)

30 Dec

Twenty ~~20~~ Marine UH-34D's lifted 574 troops and 5,150 pounds of cargo, to landings zones (S) ✓

Late 1963

A second M-60 machine gun was installed to fire from the left side of the UH-34D. This added considerable firepower, and allowed the copilot to perform his primary function of assisting the pilot. (S)

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SECRET

SECRET

1964

3 Jan

One Marine UH-34D on an evacuation mission was shot down by enemy fire. The aircraft was destroyed by its crew because of the inaccessability of the terrain and concentrated enemy activity in the area. No injuries were sustained. (S)

4-10 Jan

During this period, despite very adverse weather conditons, Marine helicopters flew 97.2 hours in 180 sorties to lift 504 passengers, 8 evacuees, and 41,385 pounds of cargo. (S)

6 Jan

The Vietnamese government decreed a three-man military command over the armed forces and government, consisting of MajGen Duong Van Minh (Chief of State), MajGen Tran Van Don and MajGen Le Van Kim.

8 Jan

~~ATD~~ announced a \$10 million loan to South Vietnam for construction of a 130-million gallon -a-day water treatment plant in Saigon.

9 Jan

The U. S. announced a Food for Peace sale of \$31.2 million worth of agricultural commodities for local currency.

9 Jan

Fourteen UH-34D's lifted 199 troops and 2100 pounds of cargo on a troop rotation mission. Two of the helicopters received three hits each and two crewmen received minor injuries. (S)

11-17 Jan

Marine helicopters flew 338.4 hours in 639 sorties to lift 1,573 passengers, 48 evacuees, and 80,105 pounds of cargo. Six hits from enemy fire were sustained. (S)

12 Jan

General Wallace M. Greene, CMC, visited Marine installations at Danang and was briefed on SHUFLY operations. (S)

13 Jan

General Khanh assumed leadership of the South Vietnam^{ese} government from the military junta.

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

13 Jan

About 2,000 Vietnamese students staged an anti-French demonstration in Saigon. ✓

13 Jan

The Vietnamese government and U. S. economic experts reported that in 1963 South Vietnam exported goods worth \$76 million, an increase of \$20 million over 1962... The budget deficit was estimated at 6 billion piastres (\$100 million), an all time high due to the war. Unemployment was cited as a severe economic problem, particularly in Saigon, where 1/10 of the population (2 million) was affected. ✓

14 Jan

Fourteen Marine UH-34D's completed a rotation lift of 204 troops and 5,000 pounds of cargo. (S)

16 Jan

The government closed nine more newspapers for violating "internal security."

17 Jan

A major government attack of 3000 troops was launched on Viet Cong bases in the Mekong Delta. Two U. S. helicopters supporting the attack were shot down; five Americans reported dead. ✓

18 Jan

A U. S. helicopter was downed with four aboard missing. It was reported that the toll of American combat deaths since the U. S. stepped up its military support of South Vietnam two years ago had reached 99. *wou*

18-24 Jan

During this period Marine helicopters flew 184.5 hours in 357 sorties to lift ~~eleven~~ passengers, Eight evacuees and 58,070 pounds of cargo. (S)

24 Jan (See next page)
25-31 Jan

Marine helicopters flew 186.5 hours in 331 sorties to lift 944 passengers, twelve evacuees, and 22,600 pounds of cargo. One hit was sustained. (S) ✓

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SECRET

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

24 Jan

CH-34D's
 Marine ~~UH-34's~~ lifted 280 troops and 800 pounds of cargo on a troop rotation. One helicopter received gunfire damage while making an approach to the landing zone resulting in an uncontrolled landing. The aircraft was repaired and returned to Danang the same day. (S)"

27 Jan

Secretary of Defense McNamara in a speech before the House Armed Services Committee stated that the situation in South Vietnam "continues grave," but that "the survival of an independent government in South Vietnam is so important to the security of Southeast Asia and to the free world that I can conceive of no alternative other than to take all necessary measures within our capability to prevent a Communist victory."

27 Jan

France established diplomatic relations with Communist China.

28 Jan

The Vietnamese government denounced French recognition of Communist China, stating that the Chinese are supporting the war against South Vietnam and that French action ~~will~~ ^{would} only serve to encourage Chinese expansion in Asia.

28 Jan

The government proclaimed amnesty for 2,418 political prisoners imprisoned under the Diem regime.

30 Jan

A military coup, organized by MajGen Nguyen Khanh, ousted government of MajGen Duong Van Minh from power.

4 Feb

About 1,000 students staged demonstrations in Saigon for inclusion of MajGen Duong Van Minh in the new government.

4-6 Feb

Viet Cong launched an offensive in Tay Ninh province and the Mekong Delta; in ensuing fighting hundreds of government troops were reported dead.

8 Feb

MajGen Khanh, leader of the military junta, announced formation of a new government with himself as Premier, MajGen Duong Van Minh as nominal Chief of State, and a mixed civilian-military cabinet in charge of administration.

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

8 Feb

Sihanouk

Cambodian Chief of State Prince Norodom ~~Sihanouk~~ reported the bombing of a Cambodian village on the South Vietnamese border and proposed the creation of an international control commission to patrol its border and prevent further "aggression" by South Vietnam. ✓

8-14 Feb

During this period Marine helicopters flew 527.1 hours in 369 sorties to lift 818 passengers, 45 evacuees, and 99,630 pounds of cargo. Three hits were sustained. (S)

9 Feb

Eighteen Marine UH-34D's and two VNAF UH-34C's lifted 105 troops from Hue to Balong to counter an attack by an estimated two companies of Viet Cong. (S)

9 Feb

A bomb exploded in a bar in Saigon killing two Americans and injuring 23 others.

15-21 FEB

During this period Marine helicopters flew 206.1 hours in 148 sorties to lift 477 passengers, 10 evacuees and 39,129 pounds of cargo. Figures include 51.8 hours and 37 sorties for VNAF pilot training. (S) ✓

16 Feb

Nine Marine UH-34D's and five VNAF UH-34C's lifted 96 troops and 1,044 pounds of cargo from Tra Bong to the crash site of a VNAF C-47. (S)

17 Feb

A bomb exploded in a movie in Saigon killing three Americans and injuring 49 others - one of a number of acts of terrorism aimed at Americans in recent weeks.

19 Feb

U. S. Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, in a speech before the Senate, urged the U. S. government to revise its policy toward South Vietnam and encourage French efforts to negotiate with Communist China for a "neutral" settlement in Southeast Asia.

19 Feb

Nine Marine UH-34D's and three VNAF UH-34C's lifted 124 troops from the site of a downed VNAF C-47 to Ba Gia. (S)

12/19
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SECRET

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

19 Feb

The government of Premier Khanh declared that it would tolerate formation of opposition parties in South Vietnam. The government simultaneously announced the closing of six newspapers in Saigon and the suspension of seven ~~of these~~ others.

21 Feb

AID announced a \$12.7 million loan to South Vietnam for construction of a 33,000 kilowatt thermal power plant in Saigon.

22-28 Feb

Marine helicopters flew 229.9 hours in 151 sorties lifting 381 passengers. These figures include 70.1 hours, 50 sorties flown in support of ~~ARVN~~ pilot training. (S)

24 Feb

Eleven Marine and two ~~ARVN~~ helicopters escorted by two U. S. Army armed ~~ARVN~~ ID's lifted 65 ~~ARVN~~ troops and cargo to Ro and returned 71 ~~ARVN~~ troops to Danang. (S)

25 Feb

The Soviet Union warned that it cannot remain "indifferent" to the "aggressive war" being carried on by the U. S. in South Vietnam, and pledged "assistance and support" to the National liberation struggle in South Vietnam.

25 Feb

Chinese Premier Chou En-lai demanded withdrawal of U.S. military forces from South Vietnam and an end to U.S. intervention in Laos as requirements for peace in Southeast Asia.

26 Feb

The Viet Cong 514th Battalion killed 16 Vietnamese Marines while breaking out of a government trap during an eight-hour battle near Long Kinh, 40 miles southwest of Saigon.

26 Feb

Premier Nguyen Khanh, accompanied by Ambassador Lodge, announced in Tay Ninh province a land distribution program to the Cao Dai religious sect.

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SECRET

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

26 Feb

Six Marine helicopters received enemy fire while approaching Hill 504 during a troop lift mission. No hits were sustained. (S) ✓

29 Feb-6 Mar

During this period Marine helicopters flew 354 hours in 188 sorties lifting 679 passengers, 60 evacuees, and 48,050 pounds of cargo. (S)

1 Mar

Premier Nguyen Khanh charged that French agents had plotted to assassinate him, overthrow his regime and join with the communists in imposing "a neutralist settlement" on Vietnam. The French Embassy in Saigon denied Khanh's charges the following day. ✓

1 Mar

Six Marine ^{helicopters} ~~UH-34's~~ escorted by two armed ^{Army} UH-1B's provided helicopters support for Ambassador Lodge and his party in the interior. (S)

3 Mar

U. N. SecGen U Thant declared that the U. N. could not play an effective role in restoring peace in South Vietnam because it is a "cold war" matter. ✓

3 Mar

The Vietnamese government welcomed a Cambodian proposal for four power talks between South Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia to guarantee the latter's neutrality.

3 Mar

Viet Cong guerrillas wiped out a platoon of government forces 320 miles northeast of Saigon. Two Americans were reported killed in combat.

3 Mar

In a three hour long battle ^{at} Thuong Phaoc, 100 miles west of Saigon, Vietnamese forces killed about 35 Viet Cong while 13 Vietnamese troops were killed. ✓

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SECRET

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

3 Mar

The Viet Cong engaged South Vietnamese troops near Trung Lap, 27 miles northwest of Saigon. A U. S. officer was killed in the skirmish.

6 Mar

Secretary of State ^Husk denied any U. S. intent to neutralize Vietnam and reiterated U. S. support for the South Vietnam^{ese} government.

7-13 Mar

During this period Marine helicopters flew 341.6 hours in 208 sorties to lift 668 passengers, five evacuees, and 28,800 pounds of cargo. One hit from enemy fire was sustained. (S)

8-12

Secretary of Defense McNamara, ~~accompanied by the~~ Director of the CIA, ~~John~~ McCone, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman, General ~~Marshall~~ Taylor, were in Saigon to evaluate the new government's war effort. McNamara affirmed continued U. S. support and declared U. S. confidence in Premier Khanh's political leadership and economic social development programs of 7 Mar. With General Khanh, he outlined a change in ground strategy for pursuing the war and concurred in General Khanh's proposal to concentrate regular army groups in critical areas, notably the Mekong Delta. ✓

14-20 Mar

Marine helicopters flew 349.7 hours in 210 sorties to lift 447 passengers, 26 evacuees, and 49,325 pounds of cargo during this period. (S)

14-15 Mar

Six Americans were killed ~~in combat~~ when their planes were shot down by Viet Cong guerrillas near Saigon.

17 Mar

The White House issued a statement announcing additional economic and military aid to South Vietnam.

18 Mar

Premier Khanh announced that South Vietnam would re-establish diplomatic relations with Laos and was dispatching an eleven-man delegation to Cambodia to resolve outstanding border issues ~~x~~ with that nation.

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SECRET

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

20 Mar

The Cambodian government announced that South Vietnamese troops, accompanied by U. S. personnel, attacked by ground and air the Cambodian village of Chantrea on 19 Mar. 9

21 Mar

The government of South Vietnam formally apologized to Cambodia for the border attack and offered compensation for damage. The U. S. government also offered its regrets. ✓

21-27 Mar

During this period Marine helicopters flew 290.2 hours in 181 sorties to lift 524 passengers, 47 evacuees, and 56,695 pounds of cargo. (S)

22 Mar

The Military Council gave a unanimous vote of confidence to Premier Khanh. He in turn announced a broadening of the Council's base with the inclusion of representatives from all combat units, the Civilian Self-Defense Corps, and the Civil Guard. He also announced the formation of an executive steering committee with himself as chairman to be assisted by three Vice-Chairmen. ✓

25 Mar

Philippine President Macapagal declared that a U. S. withdrawal from South Vietnam would be a disaster for all Southeast Asia.

28 Mar-3 Apr

Marine UH-34D helicopters flew 341.1 hours in 210 sorties to lift 469 passengers, two evacuees and 27,240 pounds of cargo. One hit was sustained from enemy fire. (S)

30 Mar

The government of South Vietnam closed two Saigon newspapers for carrying reports "likely to harm national defense plans."

2 Apr

It was reported in the press that Premier Khanh had reached an agreement with Laotian General Phoumi Nosavan, leader of the right-wing forces in Laos, enabling Vietnamese troops to pursue Communist guerrillas into Laos and strike their bases and supply routes. Phoumi ✓

-64 65

SECRET

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

4-14 Apr

During this period Marine helicopters flew 359.9 hours in 219 sorties to lift 632 passengers, 22 evacuees and 32,200 pounds of cargo. (S)

5 Apr

The Vietnamese government announced additional reforms: conscription on the provincial and local level to increase the armed forces by 50,000; establishment of a civil defense corps; dissolution of the Council of Notables; a new Constitution; and the holding of elections for a National Assembly.

6 Apr

Twelve Marine UH-34D's, four Army UH-1B's, one O-1B and four VNAF T-28's lifted 42 troops from Tamky to a landing zone. One army UH-1B was hit by Viet Cong ground fire and crashed. A Marine UH-34D rescued the crew and weapons and Marines assisted in the disassembly of the aircraft for airlift to Danang. (S)

8-10 Apr

Heavy Viet Cong attacks were reported in the northern Mekong Delta. One American was reported killed.

12 Apr

Premier Khanh, accompanied by three ^{of five} ~~or five~~ cabinet members reported to be planning to resign, stated that there was no serious rift in the government.

13-15 Apr

Fighting in the Mekong Delta and the district capital of Kien Long was reported.

15 Apr

The SEATO Ministerial Council meeting in Manila ^{issued} ~~adopted~~ a communique declaring that the defeat of the Viet Cong was "essential" to the security of Southeast Asia.

15 -21 Apr

During this period Marine helicopters flew 396.9 hours in 236 sorties to lift 664 passengers, 15 evacuees and 29,560 pounds of cargo. Three hits were sustained from enemy fire. (S)

66

SECRET

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

16 Apr

The British and New Zealand governments stated their support for Premier ^aKhnh and his government's struggle against the Viet Cong.

18-28 Apr

During this period Marine UH-34D helicopters flew 405.2 hours in 484 sorties to lift 870 passengers, 28 evacuees, and 9,150 pounds of cargo. (S)

23 Apr

President Johnson requested that "other nations" besides the U. S. help South Vietnam in the war against the Viet Cong.

25 Apr

President Johnson announced that LtGen William C. Westmoreland, U.S.A. would replace General Paul D. Harkins on 1 Aug as head of the U. S. Military Assistance Command in South Vietnam.

25 Apr-5 May

During this period Marine helicopters flew 454.0 hours in 438 sorties to lift 1,035 passengers, 41 evacuees, and 18,020 pounds of cargo. A total of 29 hits were received by 18 aircraft. (S)

27-28 Apr

Operation SURE WIND 202, a major troop assault in support of the Vietnamese 2d Corps, was flown by Marine and Vietnamese UH-34D's escorted by Army UH-1B's and assorted fixed wing observation and spotting aircraft. Note was taken that the Viet Cong apparently have learned to let the armed UH-1B's and the O-1B's fly past and then fire at the UH-34D's discharging troops in the landing zone. This technique resulted in the loss of 3 USMC UH-34D's and 1 Vietnamese UH-34C during the operation. (S)

29 Apr

^{Secretary General} U. N. U Thant said that military means could not solve the Vietnam question and urged the adoption of a political solution.

30 Apr

During a retrograde movement of 78 Vietnamese Special Forces troops, three Marine UH-34D's received numerous hits from heavy ground fire. One aircraft suffered complete engine failure and crash landed. It was later destroyed by armed escort helicopters. All injured personnel were successfully evacuated. (S)

SECRET

1964, (Continued)

1 May

The government of South Vietnam announced the release of 2,000 political prisoners.

2 May

An explosion in Saigon Harbor sank a 9,800-ton U. S. aircraft transport ship. A bomb exploding near the harbor wounded eight Americans. The Viet Cong was blamed for both incidents by the South Vietnamese government and U. S. officials. ✓

2-12 May

During this period Marine helicopters flew 364.6 hours in 412 sorties to lift 410 passengers and 7,779 pounds of cargo. (S)

18 May

President Johnson requested \$125 million in additional economic military aid to South Vietnam: \$70 million for economic aid and \$55 million for military assistance.

8 May

A Cambodian-South Vietnamese border clash resulted in the capture and destruction of a South Vietnamese armored personnel carrier on the Cambodian side of the border.

8 May

Cambodia charged South Vietnam with having raided the village of Taey on 7 May.

9 May

Ngo Dinh Can, brother of ousted President Ngo Dinh Diem, was executed.

9 May

The government of South Vietnam apologized for the incident of 8 May, admitting that 15 troop carriers had strayed into Cambodian territory in pursuit of Communist guerrillas. It appealed to the Cambodian government to prevent Viet Cong units from "using Cambodia as a base to attack Vietnam." ✓

9-18 9-19

During this period Marine UH-34D's flew 385.5 hours in 546 sorties to lift 486 passengers, 152 evacuees and 117,800 pounds of cargo.

One hit was sustained from enemy fire. (S)

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

12 May

Secretary of State Rusk requested NATO members to give greater political and economic support to South Vietnam. At the same time the U. S. requested Japan, Australia, Nationalist China, and Thailand to supply economic and technical assistance to South Vietnam.

12-13 May

Secretary of Defense McNamara, accompanied by Joint Chief of Staff Chairman General Taylor, was in Saigon on his 5th on-the-spot review of the South Vietnamese war effort. Prior to his departure, McNamara stated that the U. S. would not send B-47's or jet fighters to South Vietnam but that it would replace its obsolete aircraft in Vietnam with 75 Navy ~~jets~~ *SK-50/100's.*

13 May

The Cambodian government called for an urgent meeting of the U. N. Security Council to consider the "repeated acts of aggression" against its territory by U. S. *and* South Vietnamese troops.

14 May

Secretary of Defense McNamara called for increased U. S. economic and military assistance to the government of South Vietnam to help build up the Vietnamese Armed Forces, to counter accelerated Viet Cong attacks against the rural population and help in carrying out the economic and social reform program of the Khanh government.

15 May

U. S. Defense Department reported that 1,105 Americans were killed, wounded, or missing, in South Vietnam between 1 Jan 1961 and 11 May 1964.

16-24 May

S.M. Marine helicopters flew 348.5 hours in 533 sorties to lift 407 passengers, 24 evacuees, and 75,510 pounds of cargo during this period. (S)

23 May

Nationalist China and South Korea offered economic and technical aid to South Vietnam.

SECRET

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

24-25 May

The Vietnamese government banned nine more newspapers in Saigon for criticism of government policies.

25 May

New Zealand reported that it would send 24 military advisers to South Vietnam, and West Germany declared it would extend additional economic aid. Australia and the Philippines also reported that they would dispatch non-combat military advisers, and Australia *planned to* ~~would~~ send six transport planes as well.

28 May

South Vietnamese

The government launched a propaganda offensive against North Vietnam with the inauguration of a radio station entitled the Voice of Freedom to make daily broadcasts to the North.

30 May-9 Jun

During this period Marine helicopters flew 179.7 hours in 282 sorties to lift 411 passengers, 15 evacuees, and 10,250 pounds of cargo. One hit was received. (S)

1-2 Jun

a. U. S. top-level policy conference on Southeast Asia was held in Hawaii. The results of the meeting were not made public. It was "prompted by the continuing disintegration of anti-Communist forces and positions in [Laos and South Vietnam]."

2 Jun

President Johnson reiterated U. S. intentions to defend Southeast Asia, but said he ~~knew~~ *knew* of no plan to extend the war to North Vietnam.

3 Jun

announced it

The South Vietnamese government *announced it* did not favor extending the war to the North.

5 Jun

Government troops assisted by U. S. helicopters ~~attacked~~ *✓* a 70-mile strip of territory near the Cambodian border considered to be a Viet Cong supply center.

11-17 Jun

Marine UH-34D helicopters flew 195 hours in 321 sorties to lift 245 passengers, five evacuees and 18,210 pounds of cargo. (S)

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

17 Jun

Fighting broke out ten miles ~~South~~ of Saigon at Duc Hoa with heavy government and Viet Cong casualties reported.

17 Jun

HMM-162 arrived at Danang to relieve HMM-364, (S)

18-27 Jun

During this period Marine helicopters flew 99.3 hours in 406 sorties to lift 270 passengers, one evacuee, and 36,267 pounds of cargo. (S) ✓

19 Jun

Viet Cong terrorists blew up four cars of a passenger train enroute from Nha Trang to Saigon, killing 20 Vietnamese citizens.

21 Jun

In heavy fighting near Tay Ninh, 55 miles northwest of Saigon, four helicopters were shot down and three Americans were reported missing.

23 Jun

President Johnson announced the appointment of General Maxwell D. Taylor to the position of U. S. Ambassador to South Vietnam. A State Department official, U. Alexis Johnson, was appointed Deputy Ambassador to assist Taylor. ✓

24 Jun

Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi warned that the Chinese "will not sit idly by" while the Geneva agreements on Indochina are torn up.

28 Jun

President Johnson warned that the U. S. is "prepared to risk war" to preserve the peace in Southeast Asia.

25 Jun-1 Jul

During this period Marine helicopters flew 252.2 hours in 472 sorties to lift 437 passengers, ten evacuees, and 17,868 pounds of cargo. (S)

~~_____~~
~~_____~~

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

26 Jun

Seventeen Marine UH-34D's escorted by two Army UH-1B's lifted 83 troops and 1,075 pounds of cargo from An Diem to A Ro. (S) ✓

28 Jun

Eighteen Marine UH-34D's escorted by two Army UH-1B's lifted 75 troops and 1,259 pounds of cargo from An Diem to A Ro. (S)

29 Jun

Twenty-four UH-34D's were delivered to the ^{Vietnamese Air Force} RVNAF, rounding out a program which provided newly-trained pilots and maintenance personnel as well as a squadron of helicopters. Marine helicopter pilots from the Marine Task Element at Danang supervised the training. ✓

30 Jun

A U. S. helicopter was shot down in Quang ^{Binh} by Viet Cong ground fire, killing two Americans.

1 Jul

The Viet Cong mounted two battalion-sized attacks against Special Forces camps and one battalion-sized ambush against a convoy in Binh Dinh province. ✓

1 Jul

Maj Chas. L. Kelly, CO of the 57th Medical Detachment, was killed by Viet Cong ground fire while on a medical evacuation mission.

2 Jul

Viet Cong troops killed a number of defenders and captured some weapons at the Darlac Province strategic hamlets of Boun Mpre, Oun Thrapo, and Ba An.

2-8 Jul

During this period Marine helicopters flew 264.2 hours in 544 sorties to lift 829 passengers, 173 evacuees, and 35,141 pounds of cargo. (S)

3 Jul

North Vietnamese and Communist Chinese radio broadcasts report that South Vietnamese troops landed at Duang-Tinh, North Vietnam on 30 June but were quickly "wiped out" and that on 27 June, a South Vietnamese plane dropped 32 soldiers in Southern Laos. North Vietnam announced that it would lodge a protest with the International Control Commission for Indochina. ✓

SECRET

1964 (Continued)

4 Jul

Press reports stated that Iran would extend the people of South Vietnam a gift of 1,000 tons of petroleum products.

4 Jul

Short Viet Cong attacking in human waves over-ran the Plei Krong Special Forces camp, 25 miles southwest of Kontum. Weapons losses totaled 146, including six machine guns and ten light machine guns. 45 Vietnamese trainees were killed. ✓

6 Jul

The Viet Cong suffered a sharp defeat in their 2d Special Forces camp attack at Nam Dong, 35 miles west of Da Nang. Two U. S. Special Forces men and an Australian Army Training Team adviser were killed. ✓

7 Jul

The newly appointed Ambassador to South Vietnam, General Maxwell D. Taylor, arrived to assume his duties. In his airport statement, he said "I am here to assure you of our unstinting support in your struggle against the forces of aggression--there is no time limit in that commitment."

8 Jul

U. N. Secretary General U Thant told a news conference that he would like to see the 1954 Geneva conference reconvened because "military methods will not bring about peace in South Vietnam." The U. S. response to this suggestion was negative.

9 Jul

Press reports announced that the Philippines would extend \$250,000 in technical and economic aid to South Vietnam and that Nationalist China was establishing an 86-man agricultural-technical team in that country.

14 Jul

The U. S. announced a decision to send 300 more U. S. advisers to work with the South Vietnamese Army on the battalion level and 300 more Special Forces to help deal with the seepage of men and supplies from North Vietnam. ✓

15 Jul

Secretary of Defense McNamara stated that there was no evidence that organized units of North Vietnamese troops were moving into South Vietnam.

UNCLASSIFIED
SECRET1964 (Continued)

8

19 Jul

General Nguyen Khanh announced in Saigon, "The people have called for the war to be carried to [North Vietnam] for the liberation of our oppressed compatriots. The government cannot remain indifferent before the firm determination of [the] people."

20 Jul

The Viet Cong attacked government troops 55 miles west of Saigon, killing 30 children and ten woman of the militia families.

22 Jul

The Commander of the South Vietnamese Air Force stated that South Vietnamese "combat teams" had been going on sabotage missions to North Vietnam for the past three years and that South Vietnamese pilots were currently being trained for larger-scale attacks on the North.

23 Jul

Ambassador Taylor "reminded Khanh that American policy was pacification of South Vietnam and not an attack on North Vietnam. In response, Khanh is said to have asserted that it was he and not the Americans who made policy in Vietnam."

23 Jul

French President de Gaulle called for the withdrawal from South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos of all ~~states~~ directly or indirectly responsible for their destiny, namely France, the U. S., Communist China, and the Soviet Union. He proposed the reconvening of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina and the creation of a "massive economic and technical aid program for the area."

24 Jul

President Johnson answered de Gaulle saying that the U. S. does "not believe in a conference called to ratify terror," and that, if the Communists obeyed the already existing Geneva agreements, there would be immediate peace in Southeast Asia.

24 Jul

The U. S. announced a Food for Peace sale to South Vietnam of \$3.65 million worth of wheat and milk to be paid for in local currency.

25 Jul

The Foreign Ministry of South Vietnam made public a letter of Premier Khanh to 34 countries appealing for economic aid in the war against the Viet Cong.

UNCLASSIFIED
SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)

24 Jul

the U. S. announced that it was sending an additional 5,000 men to South Vietnam.

28 Jul

Premier Khanh reversed his previous statement and rejected "attacking" North Vietnam.

28 Jul

The U. S. ^{*dispute*} mission sent to investigate the Cambodian-South Vietnamese border, issued a report attributing Cambodian-South Vietnamese differences to Cambodia's neutralism and South Vietnam's "unquivocally" pro-western stand. ✓

1 Aug

Viet Cong forces attacked a government outpost at Vinhloc, a few miles west of Saigon, the nearest attack to Saigon made in the Viet Cong. *get by*

2 Aug

The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry charged that U. S. and South Vietnamese warships had shelled two North Vietnamese offshore islands and that ~~U. S.~~ U. S. jet fighters taking off from bases in Laos had attacked ~~attacked~~ a North Vietnamese border post. The allegations were denied by the U. S.

2 Aug

Three North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked the U. S. destroyer Maddox 30 miles from shore in the Gulf of Tonkin, the forward area for surveillance of North Vietnam's coastal supply routes to the Viet Cong in the South. ✓

3 Aug

President Johnson announced that another destroyer, the C. Turner Joy, was joining the Maddox on patrol under air cover in the Gulf of Tonkin and that they had orders to destroy any attackers.

4 Aug

Under cover of darkness, North Vietnamese boats attacked ^{*two*} U. S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. At least 2 PT boats were sunk. Carrier-based planes, on orders from President ^{*him*} Johnson, bombed North Vietnamese coastal installations to discourage further attacks.

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)

5 Aug

Secretary of Defense McNamara told newsmen that the American reprisal in the Gulf of Tonkin was "very successful." He said that, in 64 sorties by carrier-based planes, about 25 North Vietnamese PT boats had been destroyed or damaged.

Aug
5 Aug

The Soviet Union denounced U. S. "aggression^{ve} actions" in the Gulf of Tonkin and warned against "dangerous consequences" such as "broad armed conflict" if the U. S. did not cease its provocations. ✓

5 Aug

The U. S. informed the U. N. Security Council of the "deliberate aggression of the Nanoi regime" against U. S. naval units in international waters and of the U. S. retaliatory attack. Soviet Delegate Platon D. Morozov charged the U. S. with committing "aggression" against North Vietnam by dispatching its destroyers to the Gulf of Tonkin and proposed that North Vietnam be invited by the Council to submit its side of the story. ✓

6 Aug

A Communist Chinese government statement charged the U. S. with having gone "over the brink of war" by its attacks on North Vietnam and warned that Communist China would not "sit idly by."

7 Aug

Premier Nguyen Khanh decreed a state of emergency and ordered stringent controls on the population, including travel curbs, curfews, and censorship of the press. He cited the danger of new Communist attacks from the North, but observers felt he was also concerned about unrest among the South Vietnamese.

7 Aug

At President Johnson's request Congress passed a resolution supporting "all necessary measures" taken by the President to "repel any armed attack" on American forces and to "prevent further aggression." The vote was unanimous in the House, ^{and} there were only two nays in the Senate.

7 Aug

General Khanh ~~his reform program stalled and his military initiatives~~ ^{unavailing}, moved to consolidate all power in his own hands through emergency decrees. Ultimately, he invoked a new constitution by which he became president with virtually dictatorial powers. ✓

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)

8 Aug

Soviet Premier Khrushchev affirmed that the Soviet Union "does not want war" but warned that "if imperialists unleashed war on Socialist countries, the people of the Soviet Union will... stand up for... other Socialist countries."

8 Aug

The U. S. Department of Defense announced that the U. S. would withdraw its destroyers from the Gulf of Tonkin "in the next few days", but reserved the right to make similar patrols in the future.

9 Aug

The North Vietnamese government rejected a U. N. invitation to participate in the Security Council debate on the U. S.-North Vietnamese dispute stating that only the signatories of the 1954 Geneva Conference were "competent" ^{to} "examine" the "war act committed by the U. S. government."

10 Aug

Premier Khanh stated that Communist China had stationed approximately 15 jet fighters in Hanoi and that there had been evidence of Communist Chinese troop movements in North Vietnam.

10 Aug

South Vietnam severed diplomatic relations with Indonesia because of Indonesia's decision to exchange ambassadors with North Vietnam.

11 Aug

¹⁴² Communist-~~lead~~ ^{led} National Liberation Front distributed leaflets in hamlets northeast of Saigon warning that it would fire only on government troop units accompanied by U. S. military advisers. Viet Cong guerrillas kidnapped a U. S. civilian aid official.

12 Aug

^{US.} Ninety-six helicopters transported 1,000 government troops 30 miles northwest of Saigon to battle Viet Cong guerrillas, but the operation failed.

16 Aug

General Nguyen Khanh made himself president, citing the need to overcome the public passivity and make the people more responsive to the demands of the war effort.

77

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)

17 Aug

Indonesian President Sukarno charged the U. S. with aggression against North Vietnam ^{and} predicted a U. S. defeat in South Vietnam. ✓

19 Aug

A student Association meeting in Saigon denounced President Khanh for establishing a "military dictatorship." ✓

20 Aug

Buddhist leaders across the nation urged their followers to rid the current government of "dishonest elements of the old regime" which still ~~managed~~ ^{menaced} and persecuted the Buddhist religion.

20 Aug

Three U. S. officers and a non-commissioned officer were killed in an ambush in Kien Hoa, 45 miles southwest of Saigon.

21 Aug

Student demonstrators joined by Buddhists staged massive anti-government rallies charging the Khanh government with being "worse than the Ngo Dinh Diem dictatorship."

21 Aug

An Army Special Forces adviser was killed in action while accompanying a patrol in Thua Thien province some 300 miles northeast of Saigon.

21-22 Aug

Popular Forces platoons of Hoa My and Hiep Hung, two small outposts commanding one of the major canals in the delta region, withstood a Viet Cong battalion attack, estimated at 700 strong.

21 Aug

Four Americans were killed in a Viet Cong ambush of a government battalion in the Mekong Delta, 45 miles southwest of Saigon.

21 Aug

A CIA report on South Vietnam was made public. It expressed doubts about the possibility of achieving a military victory in South Vietnam and stated that it may become necessary to arrange "some kind of negotiated settlement, based upon neutralization." The U. S. government denied that the report represents U. S. government policy.

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)

23-24 Aug

Student and Buddhist demonstrations erupted into riots and spread to all major South Vietnamese cities.

24 Aug

The U. S. State Department affirmed support for the government of President Khanh.

25 Aug

South Vietnamese
A government proclamation announced that the Military Council would "repeal" the constitution, elect a new head of state and then disband to "return to... purely military functions." ✓

27 Aug

Catholic demonstrations in Saigon led to religious *Cy* oriented outbreaks. The violence was apparently an unauthorized response on the part of extremist Catholic groups to the Buddhist agitation of several days previously. ✓

27 Aug

The Military Council named a three-man triumvirate, consisting of Generals Nguyen Khanh, Duong Van Minh, and Tran Thien Khiem, to rule for not more than two months to give them time to form a national congress.

28 Aug

Authority was reimposed in South Vietnam when paratroops appeared in the streets, firing into the air to scatter mobs of Buddhists and Roman Catholics battling each other with clubs and hatchets. Some 119 youths, including suspected Communists, were arrested.

29 Aug

General Nguyen Khanh temporarily turned the premiership over to Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Oanh. Dr. Oanh told a news conference the general was still premier but "incapacitated" by the mental and physical strain of the crisis and undergoing medical treatment in the mountain resort of Dalat. ✓ *was*

29 Aug

A USAF pilot of an Al-E Skyraider *attack* ~~fighter~~-bomber was killed when his plane crashed near the runway at Bien Hoa. A military spokesman reported that the plane had received groundfire while on a routine training mission, indicating the plane could have been downed by insurgent guns on the ground. ✓

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)

30 Aug

A government communique reported that peace had temporarily been restored to South Vietnam, that 449 persons had been arrested in Saigon, and that Communist agents were responsible for having infiltrated the capital and other cities to stir up religious friction between Catholics and Buddhists.

30 Aug

for us
Viet Cong ambushed a Strike Force patrol in Kien Phong province, 80 miles northwest of Saigon near the Cambodian border.

30 Aug

A spokesman for the People's Revolutionary Council, a group of rebellious professors from the University of Hue, contended that the United States had acted unwisely in encouraging the one-man rule of Premier Khanh.

1 Sep

Brittan announced her intention to expand her program of assistance to South Vietnam.

1 Sep

Nguyen Ton Hoan, leader of the Dai Viet (a right-wing nationalist party whose leaders General Khanh had accused of betraying him), announced his resignation as First Deputy Premier.

1 Sep

American officials told South Vietnamese leaders that the United States would have to reconsider its role in the fight against Communists in South Vietnam if MajGen Khanh did not resume his participation in the government. ✓

2 Sep

ment
Under Buddhist pressure, the government of South Vietnam released 509 persons arrested during street fighting the previous week. ✓

3 Sep

Washington officials regarded the return of General Khanh to the Premiership as an encouraging step toward a restoration of stability in Saigon.

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)*come out*

3 Sep

General Khanh resumed active conduct of the Premiership, by dissolving the military triumvirate set up on 27 Aug and restored MajGen Luong Van Minh to the position of Chief of State.

4 Sep

High Pentagon officials announced that the Defense Department would continue the build-up of the U. S. military mission in South Vietnam.

4 Sep

Premier Khanh announced the resignation from his caretaker government of all army officers in ministerial post, including a Deputy Premier, and promised to lay the basis for a new popular civilian government to take over after two months.

5 Sep

Premier Khanh obtained agreements to leave the country from some of South Vietnam's leading military commanders, the targets of particular Buddhist hatred.

6 Sep

The ^aCambodian government accused South Vietnam of launching a "major attack" near the Cambodian border town of Koh Rokr on 5 September.

7 Sep

South Vietnam accused Cambodia of shelling a South Vietnamese border post to aid Viet Cong guerrillas fleeing from government forces.

7 Sep

Twenty Americans in five helicopters fought a ~~hand-to-hand~~ battle with a Viet Cong machine-gun crew near Phyc Vinh.

7 Sep

Ambassador Taylor arrived in Washington from Saigon for a series of conferences on the state of affairs in Vietnam and the United States role in it.

8 Sep

The military triumvirate governing South Vietnam chose MajGen Duong Van Minh as chairman.

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)

9 Sep

Premier Khanh abolished internal press censorship in South Vietnam, named two civilians to high government posts, and moved to reconcile four generals who had been under arrest at his order since January.

9 Sep

out - substituted
 An optimistic report on the political and military situation in South Vietnam was submitted to President Johnson and Congressional leaders by Ambassador Taylor.

10 Sep

clear!
us!
~~The U.S. Government's~~
 The Washington administration's four-day review of the Vietnamese crisis with Ambassador Taylor ended with the conclusion that the Viet Cong insurgency could not be defeated by military means in the foreseeable future.

10 Sep

The official Buddhist weekly newspaper, Hai Treu Am, attributed some of the recent rioting and destruction to American influences.

10 Sep

President Johnson received a report from Henry Cabot Lodge, his roving ambassador, that all western European governments except France considered the struggle in Vietnam as "a free world problem rather than a regional matter."

13 Sep

not replace
 The New York Times reported a growing sentiment that after the 3 November presidential election, if President Johnson wins, Washington may start groping for circumstances under which it might be possible to negotiate for an acceptable settlement in Vietnam.

17 Sep

Two U. S. Army advisers who had served with South Vietnamese units commanded by ~~the~~ leaders of the 13 September abortive anti-government coup ~~with~~ transferred.

18 Sep

ed
 unidentified

Two ~~confidential~~ targets ~~seemed to~~ approach two U. S. destroyers in attack formation in the Gulf of Tonkin, 42 miles off shore. The destroyers fired at the craft, detected electronically, and apparently the attacking boats fled.

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)

19 Sep

Middleman

Premier Khanh said that Prince Norodom Sihanouk had acted as a diplomatic ~~mediation~~ between the Viet Cong and neutralist exiles from South Vietnam.

19 Sep

The New York Times reported that North Vietnam had called for an immediate meeting of the International Control Commission to discuss American reports of new naval action in the Gulf of Tonkin. ✓

20 Sep

Mountain tribesmen in South Vietnam staged a miniature revolt in Banmethuot, seizing a radio station to broadcast a demand for an autonomous tribal nation. By nightfall, they had withdrawn and the government regained control.

20 Sep

A U. S. Army pilot was wounded by shrapnel when Communist ground fire hit his "Mohawk" plane on a flight in which he was training a Vietnamese pilot. ~~It was the first known instance.~~

21 Sep

South Vietnamese forces inflicted heavy casualties on two 100-man Communist units that had crossed the demilitarized zone into South Vietnam from North Vietnam on 19 September.

22 Sep

SIC

The Defense Department ~~believed~~ that at least one and perhaps three unidentified craft were sunk in the 18 September encounter with two U. S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin.

22 Sep

A compromise agreement was reached to end a general strike in Saigon, but the city's labor leader claimed victory. *a*

23 Sep

Viet Cong ground fire downed two U. S. piloted fighter-bombers ~~planes~~ during a night battle in the jungles southwest of Saigon. One American pilot was missing and feared killed or captured.

23 Sep

Saigon officials were reported to be fearful of a full-scale revolt among mountain tribesmen who had become increasingly defiant of the government.

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)

24 Sep

The Defense Department, confronted with what it felt were contradictory reports from the Navy, tried to reconstruct the naval incident in the Gulf of Tonkin on 18 September

24 Sep

Premier Khanh said that the simmering rebellion of mountain tribesmen against lowland Vietnamese was "very serious." U. S. Army Special Forces troops were trying to mediate the situation.

25 Sep

Ambassador Taylor urged Premier Khanh to conciliate Vietnam's rebellious mountain tribesmen rather than try to force them into line. Informed sources said Khanh had agreed to remedy some of ~~the dissidents~~ ^{their} longstanding grievances.

25 Sep

Rumors of an impending military coup d'etat lead Vietnamese commanders to move troops into defensive positions around Saigon.

26 Sep

According to the ^{OC} Associated Press young Vietnamese officers demanded that Premier Khanh dismiss some older generals.

26 Sep

A High National Council, composed of 17 civilians, was formally inaugurated and charged with the task of preparing a new constitution ~~and institutions to govern~~ South Vietnam.

27 Sep

U. S. Army helicopters rescued 60 Vietnamese hostages from a camp of rebel tribesmen in the Central Highlands. The release of the prisoners met a government condition for ~~negotiations~~ ^{negotiations} with the armed mountain tribesmen.

27 Sep

About five persons were reported shot dead when security forces opened fire on a crowd in Quinhon, 270 miles northeast of Saigon. Later the crowd stormed a radio station and troops were called in to evict the demonstrators.

UNCLASSIFIED

1964 (Continued)

28 Sep

Premier Khanh succeeded in quelling a week-long rebellion by ~~the~~ mountain tribesmen in South Vietnam's Central Plateau.

29 Sep

An official U. S. evaluation of the revolt by mountain tribesmen in South Vietnam raised serious questions about the effectiveness of the American Special Forces Program of winning ~~over~~ the primitive tribesmen. ✓

29 Sep

Premier Khanh blamed "Communists and foreigners" for stirring up the mountain tribesmen in the Central highlands. He did not specify which foreigners but in the suspicious atmosphere of Saigon the newspapers reached the conclusion that he was blaming Americans.

2 Oct

Premier Khanh warned that his caretaker government would use force to put down any protests or strikes that threatened public order.

2 Oct

Premier Khanh insisted that his transitional government would end ^s as scheduled by 27 October. ✓

2 Oct

The Associated Press reported that young South Vietnamese were going to Europe in numbers greater than at any time since the French regime in Indochina collapsed in 1954.

3 Oct

Increasing disillusionment arose from the feeling that ambitious ^u politicians and agents suspected of Viet Cong connections had used Buddhist organizations in the last month. ~~Moderate Buddhist~~ ✓
~~led by which was reported to have~~

3 Oct

The National Salvation Council, a South Vietnamese political party, set out to organize on a national scale in an attempt to be in a position of power when South Vietnam returns to civilian rule. ^o

3 Oct

The National High Council announced that a provisional charter for South Vietnam would be ready for debate on 5 October.

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