

Saigon MPs Denounce Repression

LPA From North Vietnam [Clandestine] in English to East Europe and the Far East
1518 GMT 26 Feb 75 BK

[Text] South Vietnam February 26 LPA--Saigon dailies yesterday reported the "nation and society" group of the Saigon lower house recently held a press meeting to denounce the Thieu administration for continuously ordering policemen to ruthlessly repress "deputies" of the Saigon regime, students, pupils and people.

At the press meeting, the "deputies" who had been savagely manhandled by Thieu's policemen on February 20, 1975, denounced the Thieu administration for the fifth time [for] sending police to beat "deputies" and injure them right in the streets in Saigon.

Also at the press meeting, "MPs" belonging to the "nation and society" group demanded the Thieu administration to set free 47 students and pupils arrested and detained since September 1974 and 27 others on February 20.

Saigon Buddhists Denounce Thieu

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[Text] South Vietnam February 26 LPA--The Vietnam United Buddhists Association (An Quang) recently denounced the Nguyen Van Thieu administration for feverishly conducting roundups in pagodas and temples to draft Buddhist religionists into the Saigon army, Saigon daily DAI DAN TOC (GREAT NATION) reported yesterday.

Particularly on February 18, 1975, the Thieu administration ordered a regional battalion together with police to search pagodas in the surroundings of Tra On district town (Vinh Long Province) and arrested nearly 100 Buddhists, the same daily further made known.

Moreover, Thieu ordered police to seal off Thuoc Hau pagoda. Some 300 Buddhists and hundreds of people in the said pagoda resolutely struggled to prevent Saigon police to break into the pagoda. Two Buddhists and a 70-year-old woman [as received] resolved to immolate themselves to protest against Thieu agents' roundups and attempts to get into the pagoda.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

In the three days ending February 19, 1975, the Thieu clique in Tra Vinh military sector ordered the 404th and 522d "Civil Guard" Battalions together with police and "militia" forces under the cover of an M-113 squadron to round up Ta Ron, Tao Ho, Vam Ray and Ba Tuc pagodas and [the] Cao Dai Holy See in Tra Cu district town (Tra Cu district), Ba Si pagoda (Cang Long district) and others in Cau Ngang, Tieu Can, Cau Ke and Chau Thanh districts of Tra Vinh Province. After hurling tear gas grenades into the said pagodas, Saigon raiders broke into them, pressganging over 400 monks and nuns, and other religionists.

Thousands of people including Khmer nationals together with Buddhists, Catholics, Caodaists and a number of "militiamen" and local Saigon administrative agents with knives, hammers, sticks and stones fought back against Saigon raiders for freedom of belief. The people and "popular defense" members in Tra Cu and Chau Thanh districts with hand grenades killed two Saigon tyrannical agents and won back many arrested religionists.