

UPIA-88

2ND ADD 2ND LEAD COUP SAIGON X X X FORCE PLANES.

NAVY HEADQUARTERS WAS CLEARED AFTER SEVERAL TRUCKLOADS OF INSURGENT ARMY TROOPS ARRIVED THERE FROM THE QUANG TRUNG MILITARY TRAINING CAMP.

(REPORTS OF FIGHTING REACHED OTHER FAR EASTERN CAPITALS FROM SAIGON. IN SEOUL, INFORMED SOURCES SAID THE SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN SAIGON REPORTED GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE BATTLING PARATROOPERS.

(THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF THE STRENGTH OF THE INSURGENT FORCES.)

THE POSITION OF DIEM'S ARMED FORCES COMMANDER, MAJ. GEN. TRAN VAN DONG, WAS UNCLEAR. THE GENERAL REFUSED TO SEE NEWSMEN AND SAY WHETHER HE OPPOSED THE COUP.

~~THE INSURGENT FORCE WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE SEIZED CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT RADIO STATION.~~

DIEM'S CRACKDOWN ON THE BUDDHISTS LAST SPRING AND SUMMER CAUSED WIDESPREAD DISAFFECTION WITH HIS REGIME, BUT THE WAR AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUED AND U.S. OFFICIALS IN VIET NAM SAID ONLY THIS WEEK THAT THE BUDDHIST DISPUTE HAD HAD NO APPARENT EFFECT ON TROOP MORALE.

A UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER TEAM WAS IN SOUTH VIET NAM TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES OF REPRESSION AGAINST THE BUDDHISTS.

THE TIMES OF VIET NAM, A PRO-DIEM ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER IN SAIGON, CHARGED SEPT. 2 THAT THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS PLANNED A COUP AGAINST THE REGIME AUG. 28 BUT "POSTPONED THE PLOT" BECAUSE THE "VIETNAMESE KNEW AND WERE PREPARED TO... FIGHT TO THE END."

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