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STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM

SAIGON: March 31:

On the afternoon of March 30th, President Ngo Dinh Diem made the following statement:

"Dear Fellow Countrymen:

I am informing you that at midnight of March 29th and 30th, mortar shells signaled an attack by police commandos of the Binh Xuyen. They have occupied the Police Training School since Saturday, and launched a grenade attack against the Prefectural Police Headquarters and the Headquarters of the General Chief of Staff of the National Army. A few mortar shells fell and exploded in the park of the Independence Palace and in the public square.

The forces of the National Army valiantly repulsed all attacks of the Binh Xuyen commandos, and they retreated, leaving behind a large number of bodies and weapons. Losses were also suffered by the army, police, and civilians. The extent of these losses is not yet known.

You can see how these people, in contempt of the laws and the lives of our fellow countrymen have dared to attack the government, disturbing public order and security and causing injury to the people.

Compatriots, I ask you to remain calm. Support public authority with all your strength! The National Army, always brave, has more than adequate means to protect you in any circumstance.

Do not listen to false rumors invented by irresponsible people to intimidate you and cause you to do the wrong thing. The government will keep you informed of the situation.

Soldiers of the National Army, agents of the police, and civil servants, continue your high mission earnestly! Help your fellow men to live in peace and work in order!

Binh Xuyen commandos, be fully conscious of your acts and don't be party to the bad advice of people who know very well how to exploit your sacrifices in order to reinforce their position and personal interests. Those among you who recognize their errors will be pardoned by the government and by the people, and will be reinstated into the national ranks. On the contrary, those who continue to cause disorder and injury to the people and the army will be severely punished.
PREMIER NGO DINH DIEM TO ASSUME DUTIES OF THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

SAIGON: March 31:

At the Ministry of National Defense the formal signing of an agreement between Mr. Ho thong Minh, retiring minister, and Premier Ngo dînh Diem was marked at an official ceremony. The Premier took on the duties of the Minister of National Defense in addition to his other duties.

Premier Diem issued an order of the day to the army. The following translation is given:

"I draw your attention to the fact that from today on I again assume the post of Defense Minister, replacing Mr. Ho thong Minh who has resigned.

"As in the past, each time we have had to pass through a difficult period, I would like to bolster our ranks, share your hardships and devote all our strength to ensuring the security of our compatriots, safeguarding the honor of our army and upholding our national independence.

"As you know, Binh Xuyen police commandos made surprise attacks on the Headquarters of the Chief of Staff, the Central Police Department, and on isolated groups of the National Army last night, causing casualties and material damage to the army and the population.

"Although attacked without warning, the National Army counter-attacked with strength and courage, and succeeded in repulsing the agitators who had provoked the army.

"This victory is evidence of the will for resistance and the spirit of sacrifice of the entire National Army as well as the clever tactics and the effective command of its officers.

"As Premier of the government and Defense Minister, I wholeheartedly congratulate you.
"Officers, and men of the army, our country is proud of you.
"The people express their gratitude and count on you.
"Keep your self-control and look at the situation intelligently. Always be ready to counter sabotage and criminal action.

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NATIONALIST FORCES SUPPORT PREMIER NGO DINH DIEM

While the politico-religious sects sought to sow confusion in South Viet Nam, various nationalist forces from North to South showed themselves in favor of the Premier. At Haiphong, the last grip of Viet Nam in the North,
officers and men of the nationalist forces "BAO CHINH DOAN" from North Viet Nam voted for a motion of "absolute confidence and loyalty" toward the Head of the Government.

Orientation and moral action committees of Central Viet Nam, meeting at Hue, voted on a motion stating that they would "uphold Premier Diem without reserve as a leader of the Vietnamese people in his mission to perfect independence and territorial unity to achieve democracy in order to stand up to the Viet Minh".

The council of the Imperial Family in a telegram assured the Premier of its support.

The "National Revolutionary Movement" of NINH HOA adopted a resolution whereby they determined to help Premier Diem to perfect the work of the national revolution that he has been undertaking and to strengthen the ranks around the Ngo dinh Diem government to fight extortion, corruption and foreign invasion.

The Democratic Socialist Party condemns those who provoked incidents on the nights of March 29th and 30th and adds, "we are persuaded that citizens conscious of the political situation of the country are convinced of the need to support Premier Ngo dinh Diem."

The "Da Nang National Revolutionary Youth League" sent Premier Diem a message expressing their support for his March 29th and 30th statements and the league's admiration for members of the National Army and the police force.

It should also be noted that Generals Trinh Minh The, Commander-in-Chief of the dissident Cao Dai Forces as well as Nguyen Thanh Phuong, Commander-in-Chief of the Cao Dai forces whose troops have been integrated into the National Army, and Nguyen van Hue of the Hoa Hao sect and Nguyen Giac Ngo of the Democratic-Socialist Party have publicly disavowed the insurgents and reaffirmed their unconditional support of the National Government.

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VIETNAM INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA OF THE "JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL"

SAIGON:
The Jaycees of Viet Nam have just been invited by the president of the Jaycees of Thailand, Mr. Ananta Phibul Songram, oldest son of the Prime Minister of Thailand, to participate in the fifth regional conference for Asia of the "Junior Chamber of Commerce International."
This conference which will take place at Bangkok from May 3rd to May 7th will be organized with official aid from the government of Thailand.

Usually well-informed sources state that the Jaycees of Viet Nam will be represented at Bangkok by an important delegation.

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MONTHLY STATISTICS OF FRENCH EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FOR THE ASSOCIATED STATES

(from the Paris office of the Viet Nam Press)

Paris, March 21:

The weekly statistic bulletin published by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies published this week the value of French imports and exports through the month of February for the countries constituting the former customs union of Cambodia, Laos, and Viet Nam.

The balance clearly indicates a great difference in favor of France. The countries of the former customs union of Indo-China exported to France in January and February respectively, 947 million francs and 874 million francs. On the other hand, they imported from France during these two months products worth 8 billion 387 million francs in January and 4 billion 315 million francs in February.

The decrease in the value of products imported is readily noticeable since the total imports of the countries of the former customs union for December 1954 was 9 billion 886 million francs. However, the last month of 1954 indicates the degree of importations by the countries of Indo-China of French products recently restrained by the new economic conventions.

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UNITED NATIONS URGES INCREASED AID TO ASIAN COUNTRIES

A survey report drafted by the United Nations Economic Commission for the Far East and Asia urged that foreign aid to the free Asian countries, except Japan, be tripled from one billion to three billion dollars.

The report analyzed the economic situation of Indonesia, Japan, Nationalist China, Burma, Thailand, South Korea, the Philippines, Pakistan and the free states of Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia.

The report estimated that at least five billion dollars would be needed to encourage economic development in these countries. Of this amount, it stated, that two billion dollars are available in the Asian countries themselves, while about one billion dollars comes through foreign aid. To fill the gap, the
survey pointed out that foreign aid would have to be tripled for the next five to seven years and might make all the difference between economic stagnation and progress.

GREATER AID TO ASIA

Mr. Harold E. Stassen, Director of the United States Foreign Operations Administration has revealed that President Eisenhower's foreign aid recommendations would include a "significant increase" for Free Asia. Mr. Stassen reported to the President that these free countries extending from Afghanistan and Pakistan through Southeast Asia to Korea and Japan must have more economic aid from the United States in order to resist communist penetration. The sums mentioned by Mr. Stassen indicate that two thirds of all United States foreign aid for the fiscal year 1956, which begins in July, will be earmarked for Asia.

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REVIEW OF THE SAIGON PRESS

SAIGON:

Popular revolution, administrative unity, civic education, and collaboration between the Nationalists and former Viet Minh partisans are the principal subjects which held the attention of editorial writers during this week.

The paper TAN DAN (New People), speaking of popular revolution, wrote: "In the present situation in which serious dangers threaten our country, a systematic revolutionary spirit should animate everyone. Each of us should think and act like a revolutionary and shape his personality in accord with a revolutionary concept so that each citizen becomes an entirely new partisan.

"We live in hazy and uncertain times in which everything is temporary in political as well as economic and social fields. Nothing is final, for peace, unity, freedom, and independence depend upon events, the outcome of which cannot be predicted.

"In this confused situation, we must define our pattern of conduct and pave the way toward the goal of strengthening our independence, our national unity, and our freedom. This is everybody's job.

"To safeguard national unity, we will oppose all those who try to divide our territory. To safeguard our independence we will expose all those who attempt to sell-out our country to foreigners. To safeguard freedom we will defend our right to live, our right to speak, our right to think... in brief, all the rights of man and the citizen that are the foundation of freedom and justice.

"We accept no totalitarian, inhuman regime that seeks the destruction of the future of our race."