DIEM TOPPLED

Military Forces Rule Saigon

PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

AN AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THE ARMED FORCES FAR EAST

10c DAILY
15c WITH SUPPLEMENTS

Vol. 19, No. 306 KOREA EDITION Sunday, Nov. 3, 1963

By AL KRAMER
S&S Staff Writer

TOKYO—A military revolt toppled the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem Saturday after bitter fighting in the streets of the Republic of Vietnam's capital city.

In a direct telephone call to Saigon, a U.S. military spokesman told *Pacific Stars and Stripes* the Diem government had surrendered to the

Other Stories, pictures, Pages 6, 19 and 24.

rebel forces after artillery and mortar fire demolished the presidential palace.

The spokesman said there were no American casualties in the fighting, but the toll among Vietnamese troops was believed high.

The Vietnamese government was being run Saturday morning by a council of generals who led the revolt, the spokesman said.

He said the council had named former Vice President Nguyen Ngoc Tho to head a new government under the title of prime minister.

Rebel forces were in control of the city Saturday morning, the spokesman said.

But he added that scattered gunfire was still heard

(Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

* * * * *

ICE SHOW BLAST KILLS 68 IN U.S.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An explosion and masses of roaring flame blew out a 60-foot section of seats in the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum Thursday night, three minutes before the scheduled end of an opening-night performance of Holiday on Ice.

Stunned Indianapolis officials, many of them among the 4,000 spectators, reported a

Story and Pictures, Pages 12-13.

death toll of 68, with 39 persons gravely injured.

City and state fire officials agreed the explosion evidently was from gas of an undetermined type.

The blast lifted a section of 128 box seats and dumped them on a stretch of 240 bleacher seats just below.

Bodies were thrown high in the air and fell on the ice amid the skaters. The stars of the show were waiting in the wings to skate out for the finale. It was a glittering production, representing the Mardi Gras, and the band was playing Dixieland jazz.

The band kept on playing and the skaters hurried off the ice to

(Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)

Maj. Gen. Duong Van Minh, a former presidential adviser, reportedly headed the military revolt in the Republic of Vietnam Friday which has overthrown the government. (AP Radiophoto)

U.S. Protection For Americans

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States Friday ordered military forces to move toward the Republic of Vietnam area to protect American lives if necessary.

A Pentagon announcement emphasized that this is purely a precautionary measure for protection of Americans, and does not represent any participation by U.S. forces in the situation in South Vietnam.

The announcement by Arthur Sylvester, assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, said:

"As a precautionary measure and with approval of the President, Secretary of Defense McNamara has directed the movement of U.S. military forces toward the area of South Vietnam.

"The order went out through the Joint Chiefs of Staff to Admiral H. D. Felt, commander in chief, Pacific, to take the necessary action."

"This order has been given should it be necessary to protect American lives in South Vietnam.

(Continued on Back Page, Col. 3)

* * * * *

Inside Today

Russ Launch Spaceship That Can Change its Orbit. Page 3.

* * *

Red China Reports Nationalist Chinese U-2 Downed Over Mainland. Page 5.

* * *

Elsa Maxwell Dies. Page 24.

* * *

Three German Miners Rescued. Page 3.

Not Involved in Coup, U.S. Declares

Compiled From AP and UPI

WASHINGTON — The United States Friday emphatically declared it had nothing to do with the military coup in the Republic of Vietnam.

Richard I. Phillips, State Department press officer, said:

"I can categorically state that the United States government was not in any way involved in this coup attempt."

Other officials said all U.S. aid to Vietnam was being held up pending the outcome of developments.

President Kennedy met in urgent conference with top military and diplomatic advisers to evaluate the coup. The 10 a.m. (EST) session followed at least seven hours of close watch on the developing situation.

Kennedy had been roused at 3 a.m. with first reports and had received a full briefing at 6 a.m.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk had been on the job since well before dawn, and high-command offices in the Pentagon were manned.

Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary, said those called to meet with Kennedy included Rusk, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Maxwell Taylor, Under Secretary of State Averell Harriman, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs Roger Hilsman and McGeorge Bundy, Kennedy's special assistant for national security affairs.

While his name was not on the

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 5)

Boy Drifts to Sea

FALMOUTH, England (UPI)—Nine-year-old Bobby Blackford was found asleep in a rowboat that had drifted out to sea. "I always wanted to be a sailor," the youngster told one of his rescuers, "but not any more."

Buddhist Crisis Rallied Diem Foes

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional report, written before the coup in the Republic of Vietnam, pinpointed that country's Buddhist crisis as a "rallying to Diem's opponents of all political stripes."

"It is tragically clear," the report said, "that a highly emotional religious issue and legitimate religious protests have long since become the funnel for varying types of discontent and protest.

"Among those indiscriminately arrested (by the Diem regime) have been the children of government officials and military personnel, the effect of which has been to create a growing restiveness among key personnel."

The report made public was prepared by a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee which recently made a two-week on-the-spot inspection tour of South Vietnam and other Far East trouble spots.

It was obvious to the group, judging from its report, that the people were restless. The report mentioned members of Diem's family as being "overly articulate" and having "inflamed the public." This obviously referred to Ngo Dinh Nhu, the President's brother, and his wife, Madame Nhu. He headed Vietnam's secret police.

The report added, "This Oriental oligarchy (the president's family) has failed to understand the importance of public support and has failed to seek actively such support."

The report said "Diem's word is law," and continued:

"While there is no evidence that Diem is exercising his vast authority for personal gain, or for his family's or friends' benefit, concentration of governmental powers in the hands of one family for almost a decade is bound to arouse opposition and discontent."

Among the conclusions reached by the study group:

"The study mission is disturbed that U.S. military assistance was used by elements of the Vietnamese military forces in connection with raids on Buddhist pagodas. We find this diversion of our assistance objectionable."

Under Secretary of State Averell Harriman (left photo), followed by Roger Hilsman, assistant secretary of state for Far East affairs, and Secretary of State Dean Rusk (right photo) arrive at the White House Friday after being summoned by President Kennedy to discuss the situation in the Republic of Vietnam. (AP Radiophotos)

'U.S. Not Involved In Coup'

(Continued From Page 1)

list, it was understood that John A. McCone director of the Central Intelligence Agency was among those summoned.

During the early part of the morning, Kennedy was on the telephone from time to time getting further reports. Salinger said he did not know to whom Kennedy talked.

Later Friday in the Senate, Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) said the uprising against the Diem government calls for a "reassessment and reappraisal" of U.S. policy in Vietnam and all of Southeast Asia.

Mansfield said the revolt "appears to me to be a purely Vietnamese affair which the Vientamese should settle among themselves."

Other authoritative U.S. officials said Friday night that the U.S. is taking the view that the coup in Vietnam amounts to a change of government brought about by the Vietnamese armed forces.

Official sources said that with the exception of a few officers personally loyal to President Ngo Dinh Diem, the Vietnamese armed forces had followed the lead of senior army officers.

Therefore, what has taken place is not looked upon as a coup engineered by a few generals.

According to reports received from generals leading the coup, most of the loyalist officers have now changed their support to the generals' committee.

American officials said it is obvious that in the context of the civil war between the Vietnam government and the communist Viet Cong guerrillas, the leaders of the Vietnam armed forces responsible for fighting the war have come to the conclusion that their mission could not be accomplished under the leadership of the Diem government.

This assessment of the situation was an interim one by American authorities. A deeper assessment will depend upon the future actions and policies and the character of the new military government.

Making the distinction at this stage that a new government has now come into being in South Vietnam indicated that the United States was recognizing the demise of the Diem regime which has been in power for nine years.

Presumably, a new government would require recognition by the United States and foreign powers.

Meanwhile there were these other developments:

—Do Van Ly, the Republic of Vietnam's new ambassador-designate to the U.S., said he has had no contact with his government in Saigon.

"Ly emphatically denied that anyone in his Embassy had issued a report stating that Diem had been deposed and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu killed.

—Also leaders of the Vietnamese opposition group in Washington said they had received a partial list of the new cabinet which would replace the government of Diem if it falls.

They declined to give the names saying that, "We are awaiting the complete list."

PURITANICAL

Portrait of President Diem

TOKYO (UPI) — Republic of Vietnam President Ngo Dinh Diem is a plump 62-year-old autocrat whose family regime governed the nation much as the country's ancient Mandarins did centuries ago.

Diem, a fervent Roman Catholic who trusts virtually no one but other members of his family, was reported to believe that God chose him personally to lead his divided country from the wreckage of the French Indo-China war, which ended in 1954, to modern nationhood.

As president, Diem officially ran his own country and government, but he had for some time been considered only nominally in charge.

Most qualified observers in Saigon believed that the real power in the Ngo family regime rested with Diem's younger brother, and ostensibly his chief political adviser, Ngo Dinh Nhu.

Diem remained throughout his life a bachelor who was reportedly embarrassed in the presence of all women, including his fiery sister-in-law.

Although he lived in the luxuriously furnished Presidential Palace in Saigon, Diem was a puritanical man and reportedly led an ascetic life.

He was a chain-smoker but drank little liquor.

He is reported to have told visitors that if he had not entered politics he would have joined the Catholic priesthood or gone into seclusion in a monastery.

Diem was originally put in power by the United States at the time of the French collapse in Indo-China in 1954 because of his reputation as a nationalist and an honest man.

Mme. Nhu's Father May Take New Post

Compiled From AP and UPI

WASHINGTON — Tran Van Chuong, former Republic of Vietnam ambassador to the United States, said Friday that "it depends upon the circumstances" whether he joins any new goverment in Vietnam.

Chuong is the father of Vietnam's first lady, Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, and is one of his nation's most respected lawyers.

He served as ambassador to the United States for nine years before resigning in August to protest President Ngo Dinh Diem's Buddhist crackdown.

"I do not think it is proper for me to say anything about joining any new government," he said. "It all depends upon the circumstances."

Chuong was reminded that there were reports last week from the United Nations that a South Vietnamese government-in-exile had been established with him as premier.

"But as you know," he said, "I denied those reports."

Many Washington experts feel Chuong would be a logical candidate for an important post in any new government that would be formed in Saigon.

(Chuong said earlier in Boston that if the reports of the coup were true, he will try to see his daughter in Los Angeles.

(Mme. Nhu has been on a speaking tour of the U.S.

(Several times since her arrival in the U.S. Mme. Nhu has attempted to see her father. He has steadfastly refused to see her. However, he said, "If the news is true that there has been a tragic event I would see my daughter.")

Chuong said he has not received any direct information from Saigon on the course of the revolt against Diem. He said he had no advance knowledge of the coup attempt even though he was not surprised by it.

"In a general sense," he said, "everyone in Vietnam expected that something might happen any day. That was the general feeling. But I had no prior knowledge of the coup."

Chuong has been on a nationwide speaking tour, following generally the same itinerary of his daughter, who for the past three weeks has been going from city to city criticizing U.S. handling of the Vietnamese situation.

He returned Friday from Boston and will leave Sunday for California and speeches in Los Angeles, Fresno and Sacramento.

Tran Van Chuong, former Republic of Vietnam ambassador to the United States and father of Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, speaks to members of the press at Washington airport after his return from a speaking tour of the U.S. Friday. (AP Radiophoto)

The Things an Uprising Is Made Of

By NEIL SHEEHAN

TOKYO (UPI)—Rising political and religious discontent coupled with a sharp deterioration in relations with the United States set the stage for Friday's uprising against the Ngo family regime in Saigon.

Restlessness and discontent with the policies of the Ngo family have always been present in the Republic of Vietnam, but they remained mostly below the surface until recently.

The communist-led Viet Cong guerrilla fighters were able to exploit this discontent with the regime's policies in the countryside, however. The Viet Cong's hit-and-run attacks against the government became bolder and had threatened an ultimate communist takeover of the country.

The discontent burst to the surface during the nearly four-month-long dispute between the Ngo family and the leaders of the country's Buddhist majority. The bitter dispute flared up last May 8 when government troops and armored cars killed eight Buddhist demonstrators in the northern city of Hue.

On Aug. 21, President Ngo Dinh Diem's younger brother and chief political adviser, Ngo Dinh Nhu, apparently took over actual control of the central government.

Using police and loyal American-trained Special Forces units under the command of a family protege named Col. Le Quang Tung, Nhu directed the raids on Buddhist pagodas and the mass arrests of Buddhists and other dissident elements.

Following the move against the Buddhists, Nhu also crushed the high school and university students who became the spearhead of opposition to the family after the Buddhist leaders were arrested.

But the regime's drastic action against the Buddhists and then the arrests of students brought a sharp deterioration in relations with the U.S.

At the beginning of September the U.S. suspended approximately half of its $200 million annual economic aid to the Diem regime. In October America cut off CIA funds and U.S. military assistance for Col. Tung's Special Forces troops who led the sacking of the pagodas.

The new American ambassador, Henry Cabot Lodge, adopted a "get tough" policy toward the regime and strongly advised Diem to get his brother Nhu and Nhu's wife, Madame Nhu, out of both the government and the country.

The U.S. State Department made it clear unofficially that it did not believe South Vietnam could win its largely political war against the communists with the Ngo family government in power.

The former U.S. Central Intelligence Agency chief in South Vietnam, John Richardson, was recalled to Washington earlier this month at the urging of Lodge.

Richardson had become closely identified in the eyes of Vietnamese with previous all-out American support for the Ngo family regime. He also was a personal friend of Nhu.

Most top-ranking U.S. military officials in Saigon, including the chief of the Military Assistance Command, General Paul D. Harkins, still favored continuing all-out U.S. support for the regime.

But the attitude of the State Department and the new ambassador, along with the suspension of American economic aid, were clear indications to dissatisfied elements in the Vietnamese military that the U.S. no longer felt the members of the Ngo family were the only anti-communists in South Vietnam and would not be unhappy to see a new government there.

Qualified observers in Saigon had predicted that restless Vietnamese officers would eventually take the changed U.S. attitude as a green light for a coup d'etat.

It is also believed by many in informed quarters in Saigon that both Lodge and the State Department had this eventuality in mind when the aid was suspended and when other U.S. moves of disapproval toward the Diem regime were made.

Latent discontent with the Ngo family regime has always been present among younger and middle-ranking officers in the South Vietnamese armed forces.

This dissatisfaction burst to the surface Nov. 11, 1960, when rebellious paratrooper officers led an abortive coup d'etat against the regime.

The Ngo family called loyal troops into Saigon and crushed the coup in two days of fighting during which about 100 persons were killed.

Again in February of 1962 two dissatisfied Vietnamese Air Force pilots unsuccessfully tried to assassinate Diem, Nhu and Madame Nhu by bombing and strafing the presidential palace in Saigon.

One pilot was shot down and captured and the other flew his American-made AD-6 fighter-bomber to neighboring Cambodia and escaped.

Dissatisfaction within the military increased during the nearly four-month Buddhist crisis and the regime's subsequent crackdown.

In its nine years of power the Ngo family regime showed it had a kind of genius for survival and developed an elaborate security organization to protect itself.

The security system apparently broke down Friday.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

DISTRESSED, PUZZLED

Mme. Nhu Bitter, Spurns Asylum

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Republic of Vietnam's Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu, appearing tense and angry, said Friday a coup could not have happened in her country "without American incitement or American backing."

The controversial first lady of the Asian country, emerged from hotel room seclusion to tell newsmen:

"I cannot stay in a country whose government stabbed me in the back."

Mrs. Nhu was resting here with her 18-year-old daughter Le Thuy after a cross-country speaking tour when news of the coup broke.

SANTA MONICA, Cal. (AP) —Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu secretly underwent plastic surgery to remove eye wrinkles Thursday in Beverly Hills Doctors Hospital, the Evening Outlook said Friday.

Asked if she would seek asylum, she shouted: "Never."

"I believe all the devils of hell are against us. But we shall triumph," she said. "I feel very distressed, very puzzled, when I read this morning in the papers that all 15,000 American troops in my country are protecting your embassy in Saigon."

Earlier in the day she had issued a statement in which she said "if the news from the press is true" about the reported military coup "it would be a great shame for many Americans."

Her statement, written in French in her own hand on hotel stationery a few minutes before was read by To Ngoc Thach, her Vietnamese aide.

"Indeed, we all know that many Americans had waited for this for a long time," south Vietnam's first lady said. She added:

"Now that the fruits of a just victory are so near" some forces are trying to "snatch it from its true victors with the help of some little people who are traitors to Vietnam."

Dark glasses shield her eyes as Mme. Ngo Dinh Nhu leaves a church in Los Angeles. After learning of the uprising in the Republic of Vietnam, she lashed the American government saying if the reports were true "it is a great shame to many Americans." (AP Radiophoto)

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Gen. Minh Esteemed in Viet Army

TOKYO (UPI) — Maj. Gen. Duong Van Minh, reportedly leading the coup forces in Saigon, is a combat-hardened veteran highly respected within the Vietnamese Army.

He is also thought very highly of by American military officials in the Republic of Vietnam including U.S. commander General Paul D. Harkins.

Any government which Minh might succeed in forming could expect to be basically pro-American and strongly anti-communist.

Forty-years old and unusually tall for a Vietnamese, Minh is a huskily-built man who stands about 6 feet. Reportedly a popular commander with the troops and junior officers, Minh is affectionately known throughout the army as "Big Minh." He has two front teeth missing which he has repeatedly refused to replace with false ones. The loss gives him a somewhat undignified but informal air in public.

Minh, a married man with a family, rose to colonel's rank in the Vietnamese National Army when it was still under French control in the Indochina war days.

He was later promoted to general by the Ngo family regime before it decided that he was personally disloyal and shuffled him off to a meaningless paper job as Diem's personal military adviser.

Minh was one of the first graduates from the Vietnamese Military Academy at Dalat. Besides his French training he has also reportedly attended the U.S. Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

In the early days of the Ngo family government Minh served the regime well.

He reportedly helped remove army commanders disloyal to Diem and organized and led the campaign in 1955 which crushed the armies of the dissident Cao Dai and Hoa Hao religious sects which had threatened to topple the then young Ngo family government.

In Diem's behalf, Minh also crushed in 1955 the troops of the Binh Xuyen bandit lords who formerly controlled the Saigon police and racketeering in the French days. Before they were defeated the Binh Xuyen at one point managed to lob mortar rounds onto Diem's presidential palace in Saigon.

Although Diem promoted Minh to general for quelling the dissident sects, as the years went by Minh reportedly grew discontented with the regime's policies and its handling of the war against the Viet Cong guerrillas and the Ngo family lost trust in him.

Military Revolt Ousts Diem

(Continued From Page 1)

in the capital as rebel soldiers hunted down disorganized bands of Vietnamese Special Forces troops who supported Diem.

The bulk of the fighting in the revolt centered around the presidential palace, guarded by Diem's elite palace guard brigade.

The spokesman said that as rebel units were leveling the palace with artillery and mortar fire, two planes zoomed low over the city and fired rockets at the palace, apparently missing it.

All Americans were being warned to remain off the streets and stay in their quarters Saturday unless on urgent business.

The Vietnamese ambassador to Japan was not available for comment in Tokyo Saturday morning, but Press Secretary Tran Viet Chau told *Pacific Stars & Stripes* that it was his personal opinion that there would be "no major changes in Vietnam's policies toward the West" under the new government.

He added that he hoped the new government would take stronger anti-communist measures in order to cope with the "exceptional situation."

The following additional information was provided by the Associated Press and United Press international:

(Insurgent radio broadcasts monitored in Singapore and Tokyo identified the leader of the uprising as Maj. Gen. Duong Van Minh, 40, a former member of the Vietnamese General Staff. The reports said 14 generals and 10 colonels have announced support of the rebellion, which Radio Saigon was prompted by the Diem regime's "treatment of the Buddhists and the students" and his alleged plans to "make a deal with communist north Vietnam."

(The broadcasts added that U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge conferred with Diem shortly after the uprising started. They added that Gen. Duong broadcast an appeal to the people to support the rebels, who have imposed an 8 p.m. to 7 a.m.—7 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST—curfew on Saigon and the adjacent Chinese-populated suburb of Cholon.

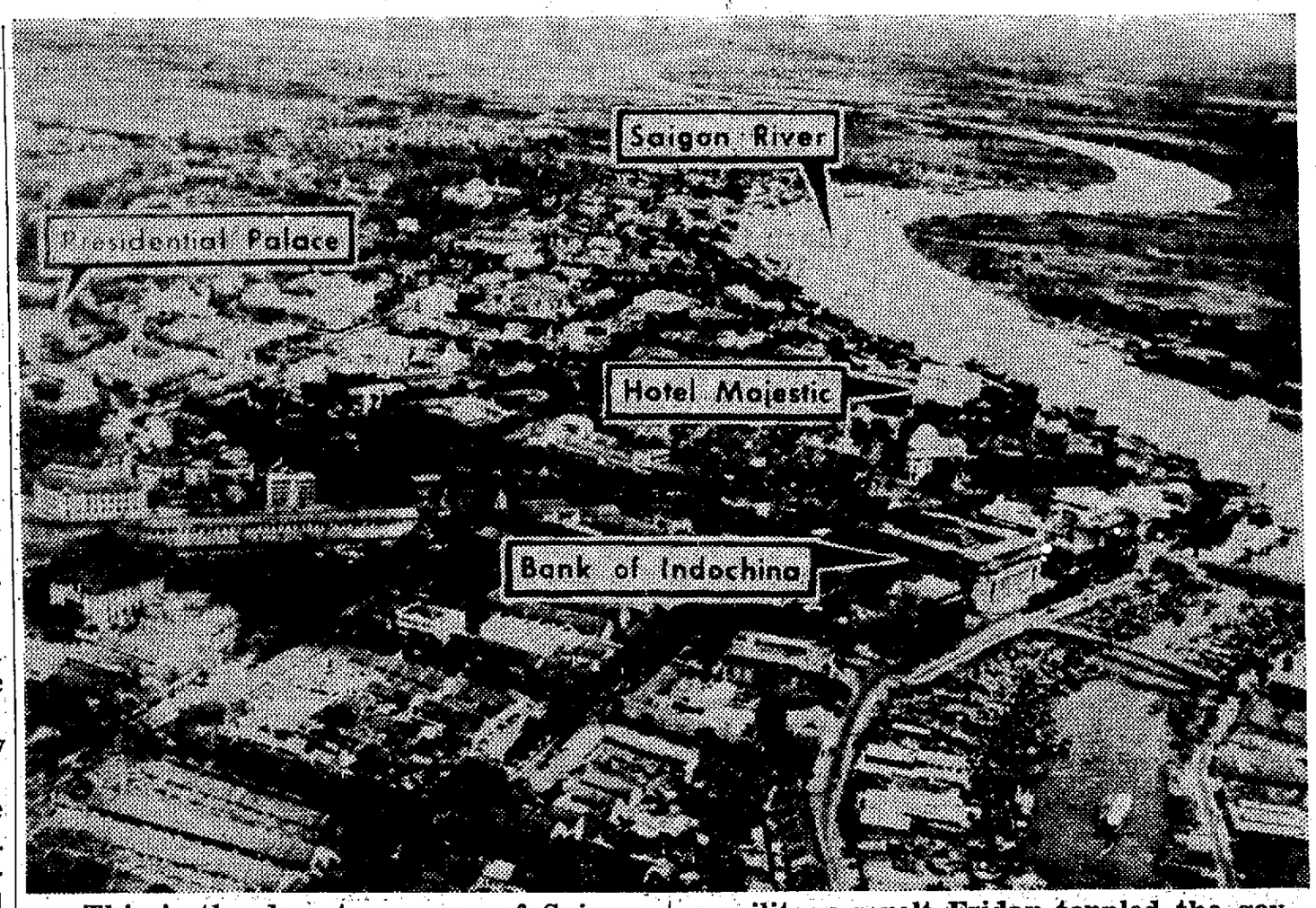
(Gen. Duong declared in a brief communique that he and his committee of generals had "no political ambitions." He said that military governors and regional commanders from various provinces have sent messages of support to the insurgents, and that 70 per cent of the armed forces were on the rebels' side.)

The armed forces rebels announced over captured Radio Saigon, which they rechristened "Voice of the Armed Forces," that they had acted "to save the country from a communist takeover."

Diem and Nhu surrendered in their palace bunker-basement after the building was bombarded by rocket-firing aircraft and shelled by tanks.

Reports reaching Bangkok said the Air Force had gone over to the side of the insurgents but that the position of the Navy was not known. Navy ships fired on some of the planes and several senior Vietnamese naval officers were reported assassinated.

The reports reaching Bangkok said there were no reports of attacks on or injuries to American diplomatic or military personnel or their dependents.



This is the downtown area of Saigon, capital of the Republic of Vietnam, where a military revolt Friday toppled the government. (AP Radiophoto)

Tojo's Lawyer Dies in U.S.

BRYN MAWR, Pa. (UPI) — George F. G. Blewett, 64, prominent Philadelphia attorney who defended Japanese Premier Hideki Tojo in the World War II war crimes trial, died Friday from injuries he received when struck by a train pulling out of the station.

Police said Blewett was standing on the platform when a Pennsylvania Railroad passenger train pulled away. A witness heard a noise and found Blewett lying between the edge of the platform and the track.

Fire Halted In Arkansas

MENA, Ark. (UPI) — Fire fighters Thursday night stopped a wind-fanned forest fire that had been charring four miles of Ouachita National Forest timber every hour.

A spokesman said the fire was not fully controlled, but that more than 800 men were holding fire lines.

U.S. Acts to Protect Americans There

(Continued From Page 1)

Sylvester declined to name the forces ordered to move. However, it seemed obvious that they would include the 7th Fleet which is in the South China Sea, and probably units of the Air Force transport fleet based on Okinawa and in the Philippines.

To the question of whether protection would be provided for property and buildings as well as lives, one Defense Department source said the only purpose is to protect lives.

Ships of the 7th Fleet presumably will change course, if they have not already done so, to take positions close off the South Vietnam coast and the entrance to Saigon harbor.

Ice Show Blast Kills 68

(Continued From Page 1)

the skaters hurried off the ice to make way for rescue teams.

With hundreds of injured pinned under shattered seats and jagged chunks of concrete, the obvious dead were left lying in pools of blood on the ice.

Injured persons lay unattended for what seemed an interminable time as the first few doctors and nurses on the scene did the best they could.

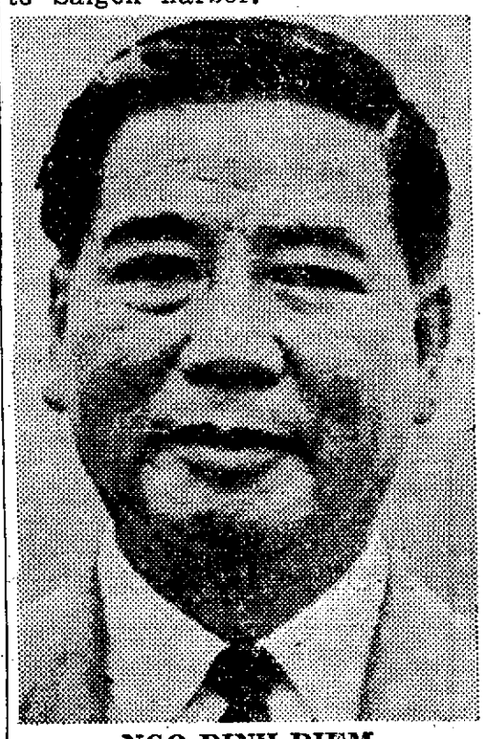
Auto wreckers drove directly onto the ice to help tug at the chunks of concrete, some of them as big as pianos. Finally a huge commercial crane was brought in, and it uncovered the last of the seats.

Many of the bodies were charred by gusts of flame that roared 90 feet in the air, to the ceiling of the huge amphitheater, in the initial blast. The fire itself was quickly extinguished.

It appeared that the blast occurred in a commissary, under the seats, which supplied popcorn and soft drinks to vendors.

One woman, among the stunned survivors filing out of the building, sobbed: "It's part of the show. "It's got to be! It's got to be!"

Ironically, the opening night performance started 12 to 15 minutes late, said one of the show's stars. Had it started on time, the crowd would have been moving out for 10 minutes or more before the blast.



NGO DINH DIEM

NGO DINH NHU

Elsa Maxwell Dies at 80

NEW YORK (AP)—Elsa Maxwell, sharp-tongued critic, ardent friend and full-time hostess of the glittering cream of international society, died Friday afternoon in a New York hospital. She was 80.

"Do good and have fun," was her credo. Her enemies questioned the first part of her formula, but no one could deny the latter.

The cause of death was not yet ascertained. Miss Maxwell entered the hospital Thursday.

Her last public appearance was in a wheelchair at the annual April in Paris Ball a week ago in the Americana Hotel here.

Miss Maxwell earned an international reputation for her parties for royalty and the socially prominent. She wrote of her friends and her enemies in a gossipy column for the New York Journal-American.

Miss Maxwell once boasted:

"I have more friends than any living persons. They are my riches."

ELSA MAXWELL

But sometimes her friends became her enemies — as in her celebrated feud with the duke and duchess of Windsor a few years ago. However, they later became reconciled.

Her chief rival in the field of social entertainment was Perle Mesta, who won acclaim in the political realm of Washington.

However, Miss Maxwell refused to share her social standing with Mrs. Mesta or anyone else. She wrote in an autobiography:

"I am recognized as the arbiter of international society and the most famous hostess in the world. I have entertained more royalty than any other untitled hostess. Oliver (of the Ritz in Paris) stated that only three people in all his experience knew how to order a dinner properly: the prince of Wales—afterwards King Edward VII—Prince Esterhazy of Hungary and Elsa Maxwell."

Tito Back Home

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (UPI) —President Josip Broz Tito returned by plane Friday from visits to South and Central America and the United States.