

URGENT

ASSOCIATED TOKYO

brownes 00300 firstlead buddhist saigon 21/8 ngo dinh diems crack
palace guard etpolice shot their way into saigons ~~main~~ main buddhist
pagoda ~~area~~ comma killing at least one monk comma in aye midnight
raid aimed at breaking back of buddhist ~~area~~ resistance to government
para at least five ambulances loaded with wounded ~~area~~ sped from
xa loi pagoda after raid stop bells comma rooms etholy objects
were smashed comma etall monks etnuns inside were carried off in
vans para among those arrested were all ~~highpriestsandmonks~~
leaders of buddhist movement comma including its aging high
priest comma thich tinh khiet para ~~area~~ at least thirty buddhist
monks etnuns were wounded ~~area~~ in shooting fray comma some ~~area~~
~~area~~ apparently by shotgun blasts para as police smashed their way
through iron pagoda gate comma aye monk telephoned this correspondent
saying commaquote mr browne the ~~area~~ police have come stop
theyre shooting stop tell the american embassy quickly unquote
para then the line went dead para two monks escaped by leaping from
aye rear window of the ~~area~~ pagoda into the parking lot
of the uussaid mission headquarters stop both said they saw
one monks ~~area~~ shot dead just before lights were shot out para
they said two hundred nuns etthreehundred monks were loaded into
police vans etoffcarried para among those siezed was vietnamese
buddhisms high priest comma the reverend thich tinh khiet para
shortly after raid began comma many truckloads of armed troops
surrounded pagoda area ettook up posts around city stop ~~area~~

14
0
80


~~area~~ telecommunications center was offblocked stop
~~area~~ city was under military control browne

Malcolm W. Browne
malcolm w. browne

URGENT

ASSOCIATED TOKYO

browne 00130 saigon 21/8 southvietnamese ~~government~~ police ~~forced~~
their way into the ~~the~~ nations main buddhist pagoda aye little
after midnight comm in aye raid ~~apparently~~ ~~the~~ designed to break back
of buddhist resistance movement para it was believed at least one
monk was injured stop this correspondent saw several police vans
comma ^A apparently loaded with ~~prisoners~~ prisoners comma speed away
from ~~pagoda~~ xa loi pagoda compound para within an hour comma
regular army troops had taken up posts around city ethad, seized
(~~skomone cables were allowed to pass guard lines~~)
telecommunications center para this correspondent also heard at least
three shots inside pagoda walls before he was ordered away from
area by police para inside comma aye terrific din of gongs etbuddist
tocsins could be heard over sounds of melee and shooting para
~~XX~~
~~XX~~
~~XX~~
xa loi pagoda served as headquarters of buddhist leaders stop
monks inside included the high priest thich tinh khiet and his
deputy thich tri quang para it was expected some form of military
control would be imposed on entire capital browne


malcolm w. browne

119
80

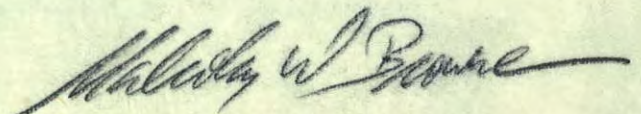
Censored

URGENT

ASSOCIATED TOKYO

browne 10730 firstadd firstlead 0300 buddhist xxx was under military control para according american sources comma announcement that martial law had gone into effect came from nguyen dinh thuan comma minister of state etdefense comma at about four thirty aye em local time para soon thereafter government officials announced formal censorship would be applied to all press cables by psychological warfare detachment para named as national military commander was major general tran van don para quote eye presume president diem still is giving the ~~xxxxxxx~~ orders however comma unquote an american official said para key pagodas throughout the country reportedly were taken over either by military or police units para among pagodas reported seized was hues tu dam pagoda comma at which authorities seized body ~~xx~~ of aye monk who committed suicide by fire last friday etwho was to have had aye large funeral thursday para six shots reportedly were fired ~~at~~ the pagoda comma but it was notnot immediately known if there were casualties para before dawn comma several battalions of army troops ~~saigon~~ rolled into ~~xxxx~~ in trucks to beef up security forces stop most came from nearby bien hoa province para in saigon comma loudspeakers ~~xx~~ and radio broadcasts announced to waking population martial law had gone into effect para president diem went on the air himself comma saying he himself had ~~xxx~~ ordered martial law ~~in~~ starting wednesday paramore ~~xx~~ browne

28
80

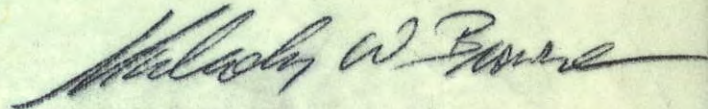


malcolm w. browne

URGENT

ASSOCIATED TOKYO

browne second 0730 he said that for three etone half months the government had tried to solve the buddhist problem comma but monks had refused to cooperate etwere giving the communists an ~~opportunity~~ opportunity to exploit situation para five provisions of martial law ~~is~~ comma he said comma were these colon ~~is~~ paraquote all persons are directed to stay off streets semicolon none person should possess ununauthorized leaflets semicolon all printed matter should be sent to military censor semicolon all weapons should be handed over ~~is~~ to soldiers semicolon and gatherings in streets are prohibited para there was none indication how long order would remain in effect para all broadcasts from vietnam also were to be subject to censorship browne



malcolm w. browne

5
80

TONY- Appreciate file the following to newyork attention gallagher.

If you want complete details of conditions in Saigon, complete information is available from the State Department, and has been since 2000 hours gmt august 20. Details are complete, not not scanty. ~~UUUSSS~~ UUUSSS is supporting vietnamese news blackout stop At ~~010~~ 1700 gmt aug. 20 I filed a first ~~bulletin~~ bulletin on the pagoda raid I witnessed in Saigon with the US Embassy. Charge d'affairs william c. trueheart said he would transmit the cable to associated via washington stop at 2000 hours gmt aug. 20 I filed another longer cable with trueheart, which described raid in more detail and carried martial law development. I found the earlier cable had not not been moved. Other correspondents were given the same privilege, which lost us our beat. It is now 24 hours later and the state department has not released the cables to you, nor has it released any substantial information of its own. I know this because we are getting copies of the apw ~~pak~~ playback. I know the uuuss ~~emb~~ embassy transmitted complete information itself within hours after the first series of raids. All communications outside the country are cut. Military censorship has been imposed, but it is ~~meaning~~ meaningless because even censored copy is not being filed. All wednesday I tried to persuade military air crews and passengers leaving the country to take an envelope for me to ~~Bm~~ Bangkok or Manila. All refused. Maybe this will get through thursday. We need the full weight of ~~your~~ your help to get any news out of vietnam.

browne

TONY-ECODA: Please file this Tokyoward Urgently. I ka unknow how much,if anything, of the South Vietnamese crisis has reached the other world through the State Department, which seems to be dragging its heels.

saigon, aug. 21 (AP)--South vietnamese troops cracked down ruthlessly on ~~pagodas~~ buddhist pagodas throughout the nation wednesday, in an effort ~~sk~~ to end buddhist opposition with bullets, tear gas and bayonets.

The nation was placed under martial law in pre-dawn hours wednesday, while troops raided key pagodas, shooting and arresting monks and smashing religious articles. By dawn, most of the nation's leading buddhist monks were in government custody. There was no indication how many had ~~m~~ been killed or wounded.

~~Heaviest~~ Heaviest action was at saigon's xa loi pagoda, the headquarters of the buddhist resistance movement, where shock troops ~~m~~ blasted their way through an iron gate shortly after midnight.

There was heavy shooting inside. Estimates of the number of dead monks at xa loi ranged between one and six.

President diem announced martial law by radio. He said under the decree, houses would be searched ~~for~~ by troops for all persons "whose activities are considered harmful to public ~~seantk~~ security."

All public gatherings were forbidden, and strict press censorship went into effect. The distribution of ~~leaflets~~ leaflets was declared illegal.

moremore

saigon--first add buddhist x x x illegal.

An american ~~affs~~ official called the lightning series of moves against the buddhists "a flagrant ~~xxxx~~ breach of all the government's promises, both to the buddhists and the united states."

Shooting and casualties were reported during a similar raid on hue's main pagoda, in which government troops siezed the body of an aging monk, who was to have been ceremonially cremated thursday. The monk, thich tieu dieu, committed suicide last friday in protesting government persecution of buddhists.

All communications with the outer world by commercial means were effectively cut off by the government.

The u.s. embassy here agreed at ~~xxxx~~ one a.m. local ~~time~~ time (1700 ~~gmtt~~ tuesday) to relay short press cables by diplomatic channels to washington, but 12 hours later, there was no indication the cables had reached their destinations.

All commercial airline flights to or in viet nam were cancelled.

Government authorities claimed wednesday they had found stocks of arms and explosives in some of the pagodas they raided.

Two monks at xa loi pagoda escaped from the raid by leaping from a rear window in the building into the parking lot of the u.s. aid mission headquarters. For the moment, they were being kept at the mission and were safe from government arrest.

more more

saigon--second add buddhist ~~xxxxxxx~~ x x x arrest.
from

A curfew ~~starting~~ 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. in saigon was imposed, and it was announced any assembly of more than three persons in the street would be arrested.

Conditions were apparently similar in towns and cities throughout the nation. Troops were brought in from the countryside to reinforce police.

In saigon, the pagoda raids were carried out by metropolitan police, army special forces troops and diem's elite bodyguard.

There was none indication how long the formal state of siege might last.

Arrests of monks and nuns throughout the country probably was in the thousands. At xa loi alone, about 400 monks and nuns, ~~xxx~~ including vietnamese buddhism's high priests, were arrested. Among them was the ~~8x~~ 80-year-old high chief priest of the nation, the reverend thich tinh khiet. browne

Note: Getting copy or pictures out of here is going to be just about impossible for a while. Recommend washington try to get whatever it can from the State Dept. For the moment, correspondents seem to be fairly safe, although a car and lots of photographic equipment ~~xxxxx~~ were siezed from CBS, and a local CBS cameraman was arrested. Faas was detained about 3 hours in hue by police.

X emb

Ex

For mr. fink, secul-

pagodas throughout country seized by army and police many monks nuns
shot hundreds arrested stop strict national curfew and military
control stop diem in control stop possibility correspondents
will be arrested stop state department has full details but is
holding back ~~stop~~ browne

