

# Khanh Ousted,

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Col. Thao

## Col. Thao Makes Grave Indictment Of Khanh Regime

SAIGON, Feb. 19 (SDN).— A severe indictment of Lieut. General Nguyen Khanh and his political and military record was broadcast by Radio Vietnam this afternoon.

The speaker, who was on the air for nearly half an hour, was identified by many listeners as Colonel Pham Ngoc Thao, former Vietnamese Press Attache at the Embassy in Washington, who is believed to be the man behind today's military operations in Saigon and elsewhere to oust General Khanh.

Colonel Thao said that the operations were aimed solely at overthrowing Gen. Khanh and that all elements of the Armed Forces, of all ranks, took part in the action. He called on all units of the Armed forces to participate in the action and urged those units on their way to the capital to return to their positions.

He charged General Khanh with being the man behind the frequent political crises and changes of government in Vietnam and stressed that Khanh's purge was the main objective of the leaders of the coup.

In what looked like a draft manifesto, presented by the coup leaders to the people, Colonel Thao said that the movement would restore peace, order justice and discipline in the country.

All religions will be treated equal; there will be no religious discrimination; there will be no exploitation of religious feelings for political purposes.

He called for a re-orientation of the political outlook in Vietnam. He said the future government would not seek to crush any party, nor accept parties made up of two or three self-seeking individuals. Only political parties with popular support and dedicated to the service of the people will find a place under the new regime.

He called for a free and responsible Press in Vietnam, capable of restraining extremist elements. He said that libellous and scurrilous personal attacks by the press on any individual will not be tolerated by the government.

He said the future Government will draft its policy and programme and submit them to the people and it is for the people to judge them and to decide whether they conform to the need for a genuine revolution.



Gen. Khanh

## Restless Night After The Hectic Day

The outlook on the operation Nguyen Hue, front seemed obscure tonight as the 9.00 o'clock curfew descended on the people and the city went indoors for a restless night after the hectic day.

There was no firm answer to the anxious question on everyone's lip: Is the coup over? Will there be trouble?

The streets were empty before 9.00 p.m. The neon lights still blazed in most places along Tu Do Street as well as in Cholon and other nerve centres of the capital. But evidence of human activity was restricted.

Truckloads of troops occasionally roared past. Security men kept stringent vigil. Almost everybody else was off the streets—and that includes the barmaids and their patrons, the playgirls and their customers.

Saigon lay silent and restless tonight—but certainly not asleep.

## Colonel Pham Ngoc Thao

Col. Pham Ngoc Thao is a native of South Vietnam, in the delta area near Can Tho.

In the past he was a member of the resistance against the French in Vietnam, when the resistance was led by the all-inclusive Vietminh.

In the wake of Ngo Dinh Diem's accession to power, Thao,

joined the nationalist cause.

Later he was considered an unusually effective chief of Kien Hoa province in the delta. After the November, 1963 revolution, Col. Thao went to the United States where he attended the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

He later returned to Vietnam and became Press Officer at the Premier's Office last year for Gen. Nguyen Khanh.

Last September, Col. Thao was appointed Press Attache at the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington, where Gen. Tran Thien Khiem has been Ambassador. The Colonel returned to Vietnam quietly in late December, and has been living in seclusion since then, with no official function.