

Biography of Mr Ha thuc Ky
Chairman of the Free Viet-Nam Front

Bios
FILE SUBJ.
DATE SUB-CAT.
1982

Mr Ha thuc Ky was born on January 1st, 1919, of a noble family in Thua Thien (Central Vietnam). His father once was a minister in the Imperial Court in Hue.

He attended the University of Hanoi and, in 1942, graduated with a degree in Forestry.

In 1939 he joined the DAI VIET Party as a student to fight the French for the independence of Vietnam.

At the end of 1945, together with the armed forces of the Dai Viet Party, he joined the resistance movement against French. He commanded the front on Highway 9 along the Laos-Vietnam border. In mid-1946, tipped by his party's intelligence, he discovered that Hanoi Government was determined to eliminate the Nationalist forces. He survived Hanoi's purge and return to Hanoi to conduct secret activities after dispersing his military units. Later, he was sent by his party to Central Vietnam where he re-organized the party's bases, and at the end of 1950, he was promoted head of the Central Vietnam Party Committee, replacing Doctor Bui Hiep who was just assassinated by Hanoi Government.

In 1954, he commanded the Balong Base (Quang Tri province) and created the Dai Viet Broadcasting station to fight both Hanoi and Ngo dinh Diem's government. However, Balong base finally broke after constant attacks for one year led by Ngo dinh Diem's army in the South and the Hanoi forces in the North. He escaped to Saigon where he re-established the broadcasting station, this time mobile, and continued to fight against Ngo dinh Diem's dictatorship.

In 1957, he was sentenced by the Criminal Court for life imprisonment (by abstentia) and to have his property confiscated. But it was not until

October 16, 1958 that he was caught in Saigon. his family shared his fate and spent their sentence in Section 42 located in the Saigon Zoo.

After the coup d'etat that ended Diem's regime in November 1, 1963, he was released and subsequently invited by the Military Revolutionary Committee to sit on the Committee of Notables. Following the cabinet reshuffle on January 30, 1964, he was named minister of the Interior by General Nguyen Khanh. However, within two months he resigned to protest the Nguyen Khanh's military dictatorship.

In 1965, he advocated a 9-point program to save the South, which called for the nation-wide unification and the forming of a democratic regime. Subsequent demonstrations took place in the South and the Central Vietnam supporting his standpoint.

On December 25, 1965 the Party's Convention elected him Chairman.

In September, 1967, the Party nominated him for Presidency; however, because of the government's fraudulent acts, he lost.

From 1965 to 1969, his party had grown fully and under his leadership, it had made accomplishments in the following areas:

- Parliament (1967) : the party gained 25 seats.
- Congress (1967-1970 term) : the party won 38 seats out of 129.
- Congress (1971-1975 term): the party took 38 seats out of 159.
- Senate : the party had 10 seats out of 60.
- Provincial Councils : the Party won 119 seats out of 600 and appeared in 48 provinces out of 50.
- Communal Councils : The Party appeared in 1800 villages out of 2000.

Early in 1969, he led a people-to-people delegation consisting of senators and congressmen on a trip to Japan, England, France, Belgium, Italy, The Vatican, West Germany, Holland, Korea, Taiwan, and the United States. He had met and talked to the then political leaders including Secretary of States Williams Rogers, for a peace solution in Vietnam.

He advocated the neutralization of Southeast Asia, and that, especially in Vietnam.

During the critical moment in 1974, he had secretly gathered all the political and religious leaders for the purpose of forming a committee to fight Hanoi as well as to oust Thieu's regime. This committee later generated an anti-corruption movement in 1974.

In 1978, after a tour to a number of European countries, he formed the FREE VIETNAM FRONT in the determination of liberating Vietnam from the Hanoi's, ruling and founding a neutral, independent Vietnam in the mutual prosperous Southeast Asia Bloc.
