

February 12, 1965

PHAN HUY QUAT

Phan Huy Quat was born on July 1, 1909 at Huu Phuong, Ha Tinh province, in what is now North Vietnam. His father was a wealthy landowner and a doctor of letters and a mandarin. Quat was educated at the Ecole Pollerin in Hue and at the Lycee du Protectorat in Hanoi. He received a medical degree from the University of Hanoi in 1937.

After the Japanese surrender in 1945, Quat was offered a government post in the Communist North Vietnamese "government" but did not accept. With the establishment of the non-Communist State of Vietnam in 1949, Quat served in various capacities in the Bao Dai government. In 1949, he was appointed Under-secretary of State for Education, from January to March 1950 served as Minister of National Defense, and in February 1951 was named Minister of National Education but resigned before the cabinet was installed. Quat again served as Minister of National Defense from 1953 until June 1954 shortly before Ngo Dinh Diem was appointed Prime Minister. On the political side during this period, Quat emerged as one of the principal leaders of an important nationalist party, the Nationalist Party for Greater Vietnam (Dai Viet). An ardent nationalist, he voiced strong criticism both of French reluctance to grant real independence to Vietnam and of those Vietnamese nationalists who, he felt, were not militant enough in pressuring the French toward this objective.

Quat remained one of the principal but more responsible oppositionists to the Diem regime. In April 1960, he signed the Caravelle Manifesto which petitioned Diem for reforms. He was arrested in the aftermath of the abortive November 1960 coup against Diem. In December 1963, Quat was appointed to the Council of Notables and served until it was disbanded in May 1964. Quat was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in February 1964 in Khanh government, serving until the latter

part of 1964.

Quat speaks fluent French, some Chinese, but reportedly no English.

He has travelled to France on several occasions and to the US in 1964 in his capacity as Foreign Minister. He is a Buddhist.

DAM SY HIEN

Dam Sy Hien is currently Secretary of State for Social Welfare, and served as Secretary of State for Labor for several months in 1964.

Hien was born on October 15, 1914, in Nam Dinh in what is now North Vietnam. He is a lawyer by profession, having graduated from the University of Hanoi, and has a doctorate in economics. He has long been active in national and international labor affairs. He was formerly Vice President for International Relations of the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor, the principal labor organization in South Vietnam. From 1955 until at least 1960, Hien was also Asian secretary of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU), and in December 1963 he was elected Chairman of the Brotherhood of Asian Trade Unionists at a meeting of representatives of Asian trade unions in Baguio, the Philippines. He has attended several international labor conferences, for example, in Burma and India, and since 1956 has been present at almost all annual Geneva conferences of the International Labor Organization (ILO) as a member of the South Vietnamese delegations.

Hien is an intelligent and relaxed person, speaks good English and excellent French. He is a Buddhist.

NGUYEN VAN THIEU

Born on 5 April 1923 in Ninh Thuan, South Vietnam, Nguyen Van Thieu is a graduate of secondary schools in Saigon and Hue (1940-1947). After graduating from an officer training course in Hue and a military course in Coetquidon, France, Thieu served as a company commander in the Sao Dai forces during the Indochina war in the western zone of Vietnam from 1950-1951. He was promoted a permanent active lieutenant colonel in October 1955. He served as commandant of a sector, as a regimental commander, and as Commandant of the Vietnamese National Military Academy at Dalat (1956, and 1957 to 1959).

In 1957, he was graduated from the USMC Air-Ground Operations Course in San Diego, and from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. He has had other US training tours in Okinawa and Texas.

In December 1962, Thieu was named Commander of the 5th Infantry Division, and in April 1963 he was promoted to full colonel. A member of the Military Revolutionary Council (MRC) which overthrew the government of Ngo Dinh Diem in November 1963, Thieu was subsequently promoted to brigadier general and retained command of the 5th Division. After the January 1964 coup which brought General Nguyen Khanh to power, Thieu was appointed Chief of the Joint General Staff; in August 1964 he was appointed to serve concurrently as Deputy Minister of Defense. After the abortive coup of September 1964, Thieu was assigned as Commander of IV Army Corps. In the cabinet reorganization of January 18, 1965, he was appointed Second Deputy Premier.

Thieu is Catholic. He speaks French fluently and English well.

Le Nqhiem
LE VAN NGHIEM

Le Van Nghiem, a Buddhist, was born on July 11, 1912, in Phay Xuan, Thanh Thien province in what is now South Vietnam. He served as an enlisted man in the French colonial army from about 1930 until World War II, when he saw action against Germany as a captain in command of a French colonial company. A prisoner of war of the Germans for some time, Nghiem returned to the French Army after the war and served in Indochina. In 1949, he was transferred to the National Guard in central Vietnam as a lieutenant, and the following year was made a captain and served in the military cabinet in Central Vietnam. He commanded various regiments and by 1955 had risen to the rank of brigadier general, serving as Commander of the 2nd Military Region until September 1956. From 1956 until 1961, he was Commander of the Thu Duc Military Training Center. In May 1961, he was named Commander of the III Army Corps, and in December 1962 he was reassigned to the I Army Corps. He was relieved of this command in late August or early September 1963.

Following the November 1963 coup which overthrew President Diem, Nghiem was promoted to major general, named Commander of the Vietnamese Special Forces, and briefly served as Commander of the Airborne Brigade. He was subsequently named an executive member of the Revolutionary Military Council (RMC). In February 1964, he was reassigned as Commandant of the Command and General Staff College in Dalet.

NGUYEN LUU VIEN

Nguyen Luu Vien was born in 1919 in Tra Vinh (South Vietnam). He has a medical degree from the University of Hanoi, and at one time was a lecturer at a university medical faculty. Under President Diem, Vien was appointed Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees with rank of Secretary of State in September 1954 but resigned in December of that year. In 1958, Vien was elected Chairman of the South Vietnamese Red Cross, a position he held until 1960. He signed the 30 April 1960 Caravelle Manifesto which requested liberalization of the Diem regime and permission to organize as an opposition party; he was arrested following the abortive coup of November 1960 against Diem.

In December 1963, after the ouster of the Diem regime, Vien was appointed to the Council of Notables formed in December 1963 by the government of General Minh and Premier Tho. On September 9, 1964, Vien was named Minister of the Interior by General Khanh when the latter was Prime Minister. Vien also served in the same capacity, as well as First Deputy Premier, in Prime Minister Tran Van Huong's government.

Vien is General Khanh's uncle.

CHUNG TAN CANG

Chung Tan Cang was born in Gia Dinh province, South Vietnam, on July 22, 1926. After graduating from high school, he attended the Navigation School in Saigon. From 1948 until 1951, he was a merchant marine officer. He entered the Vietnamese Navy in 1952 and served as commanding officer of the Vietnamese Navy Training Center, Nha Trang, from 1955 to 1958. Cang was appointed Commander of the River Forces in January 1960, with the rank of Captain. In 1958-1959, he received ten months of amphibious training in California, and attended the Senior Foreign Officers course at the Naval War College in Rhode Island from August 1960 until June 1961.

After the November 1963 coup which deposed the Diem regime, Chung Tan Cang was promoted to Commodore and named Commander of the Vietnamese Navy, thus becoming Vietnam's first commodore. Cang was promoted to Admiral in late 1964.

Admiral Cang is a Roman Catholic, fluent in French, and speaks English fairly well.

TRAN VAN DO

Dr. Tran Van Do was born about 1905 of a distinguished family of Cochinchinese (southern Vietnamese) origin, long resident in Tonkin (northern Vietnam). His father was a provincial governor under the French protectorate. His brother Tran Van Chuong, was ambassador to Washington until he resigned in 1963 in protest against President Diem's policies.

Do was President Diem's first foreign minister, and Diem's representative at the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina. He resigned in April 1955, on the grounds that Diem was not delegating sufficient authority to him and was making decisions on his own. Do subsequently returned to his Saigon medical practice and remained politically inactive. In April 1960, Do was among the 18 signatories of the Careville Manifesto which requested liberalization of the Diem regime and permission to organize an opposition party. He was appointed to the Council of Notables in December 1963.

Do is a cultured gentleman with a pleasing personality. He has studied in France and speaks fluent French.

NGUYEN HUU HUNG

Nguyen HUU Hung is currently Secretary of State for Labor. He was born on April 19, 1930, in Thanh Hoa province in what is now North Vietnam. He has a degree in law and served as Chief Judge in Phu Yen province in South Vietnam. On November 4, 1964, former Prime Minister Tran Van Huong appointed Hung to the Labor Ministry.