

DRV FILE / SUB. 6  
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HA .T. QUE

Ha Thi QUE, one of two women on the VWP Central Committee, was born in 1921 in the Red River Delta province of Ninh Binh. In 1939, at the age of 18, she joined the I.C.P. When it went underground in late 1939, Que remained active in her native province. During the "Resistance War" against the French, she organized and directed guerrilla units in Ninh Binh, one of the delta provinces over which the French exercised nominal control.

Que apparently became a deputy to the first DRV National Assembly and has remained a National Assembly deputy ever since, having been elected from her native Ninh Binh in 1964 and 1971. In 1954, she was appointed to the Central Committee of the Viet-Nam Women's Union (VWU), and in May 1956 Vice-Chairman of that organization, a position she continues to hold.

Que was elected a member of the VWP Central Committee at the 1960 Congress. During the 1960's, she travelled on VWU delegations to a number of socialist countries, attending international women's conferences and similar conclaves. In 1968, she was named Deputy Chairman of the VWP Central Committee's Control Board.

It has been suggested that Que, not VWU Chairman Nguyen Thi Thap, is the ranking woman in the VWP-DRV hierarchy. The contention is supported by Que's Party activism and the fact that Thap, who is a South Vietnamese, occupies positions which, while prestigious, are largely ceremonial. Que's own North Vietnamese origins may make her more acceptable to some elements of the VWP.

It is expected that Que, now 52, will continue to occupy a position of importance in the VWP-DRV structure, probably succeeding Mrs Thap, 13 years her senior, as head of the VWU.