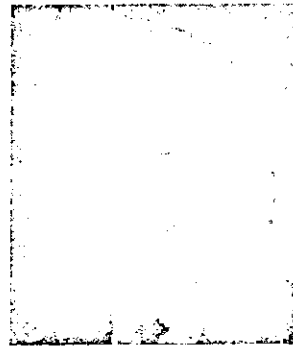


## Nguyen Tho CHAN

*Alternate Member of the Lao Dong Party  
Central Committee*

One of the younger figures on the North Vietnamese scene, Chan has been engaged in Communist activities for most of his life, and until recently was a professional administrator rather than a diplomat.

Nguyen Tho Chan was born in 1922, and joined the Indochinese Communist Party (PCI), led by Ho Chi Minh, at the age of 17. He was imprisoned by the French for subversive activities from 1943 to 1945, and again from 1951 to 1954. When he was not in jail, Chan was First Secretary of the PCI Ha Dong Provincial Committee and then First Secretary of the Hanoi City Party Committee. From 1955 to 1959 he was head of the Manpower Department in the Ministry of Labour, before reverting to his position as First Secretary of the Hanoi



Party Committee. In 1960 he was elected an alternate member of the Central Committee of the Lao Dong (Workers') Party, the successor of the PCI. He moved to be First Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee for the coal mining area of Quang Ninh in the Eastern provinces of North Vietnam. He held this post until 1967, when he was appointed North Vietnamese Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

His duties in Moscow were frequently performed by *Chargés d'Affaires* since he appeared to spend much of his time in Hanoi, returning to Moscow for important functions there. He led the North Vietnamese delegation to the Finnish Communist Party Congress in Helsinki in March, 1969, arriving from Hanoi, but returning to Moscow after the Congress. In June, 1969, he became the first North Vietnamese Ambassador to Sweden, but also remained Ambassador to the USSR until January, 1972, when he was replaced by Vo Thuc Dong.