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REVOLUTIONARY'S LIFE MARKED BY ANTI-FRENCH PRESS ACTIVITIES

Article: "Biography of Nguyen Van Tao"; Hanoi, Hanoi Noi, Vietnamese,
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Nguyen Van Tao was born in 1908 into a poor family in the village of Phuoc Loi, Cho Lon Province, South Vietnam.

While a high school student, he came under the influence of the patriotic French resistance movement and gained revolutionary awareness at an early age.

In 1926 he mobilized a student strike at a Saigon high school after which he fled to France to continue his studies and search for the road of revolutionary activity.

While in France, he contributed articles to the French Communist Party Humanite Newspaper, was editor of the farmer and proletarian newspaper, and wrote a book to propagandize and mobilize Vietnamese seamen and students in France. In 1927 he was accepted into the French Communist Party and was given a job by the French Communist Party Central Committee in the unit studying and following revolutionary movements in French colonies. He was a member of the French Communist Party Delegation to the Sixth International Communist Congress. After that, he was elected to the French Communist Party's Central Executive Committee.

In 1930 he participated in a demonstration protesting the French regime's handling of the Yen Bai revolutionaries and as a result, was imprisoned for eight months and deported to Vietnam.

Back in Saigon, he and a number of others published an open letter with an article denouncing the tyrannical rule of the French colonialists in Indochina which demanded a better living standard for the people and democracy.

Running as the workers' candidate, he was elected to two consecutive sessions of the Saigon Municipal Council (1933 and 1935).

In 1936 he was one of several organizing the Nam Bo Indochinese Congress movement when seized by colonialist reactionaries, found guilty of writing an anti-colonialist newspaper, and given two sentences: one of two years imprisonment and five years in exile, and the other of one year imprisonment and ten years in exile. Out of prison, he was placed under house arrest in My Tho. There he continued his activity on the battlefield of the press. In 1939, when World War II broke out, he was again seized along with many others, sentenced to five years imprisonment, and banished to Con Dao. In 1944, after leaving prison, he was restricted to Rach Gia Province.

With the 1945 August Revolution he participated in the uprising in Saigon and was appointed to the Nam Bo Provisional People's Committee. In 1946 he was selected as the Rach Gia Province National Assembly Delegate. Also during that year he came to North Vietnam to participate in the National Assembly and was selected to hold the position of Minister of Labor.

In 1947 he was selected for the Party Central Committee's Sub-committee on Proselytizing.

In 1954 the government appointed him Chairman of the Reunified South Vietnamese Reception Committee.

In 1965, due to weakened health, he stepped down as Minister of Labor and was selected to be Director of the Premier's Internal Affairs Office and Deputy Chairman of the Central Emulation Committee. In June 1970 he was selected by the National Assembly to be Head of the National Assembly Reunification Committee.

Due to the work and achievements he contributed to the revolution for more than 40 years Nguyen Van Tao was awarded the First Class War of Resistance Medal by the National Assembly and government.

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