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NGO GIA TU

[Article: "Ngo Gia Tu, an Outstanding Communist Soldier"; Hanoi, Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 10 January 1970; p 1]

The Vietnamese revolution during the years 1929-1930 urgently required the leadership of a vanguard unit of the working class. Rising to meet the requirements of the patriotic campaign and the workers' campaign under the leadership of President Ho, the first communist soldiers actively worked to establish the communist party. Ngo Gia Tu was among that number.

He knew about the activities of Nguyen Ai Quoc from the time he was a student in the Buoi School. He was deeply influenced by Ho Chi Minh's ideology. He participated in such patriotic activities as student strikes and demonstrations demanding that the colonialist French free Phan Boi Chau. He was expelled from school in his fourth year. He returned to his home to teach in the township of Tam Son of the prefecture of Tu Son in Bac Ninh Province. He and some fellow students secretly continued activities in secret campaigns and he joined the Revolutionary Youth Association. While working as a teacher he also worked in the fields plowing, transplanting, and harvesting with the peasant families among which he propagandized about the revolution. Together with some friends, he established many revolutionary elements within the province, including two Revolutionary Youth Associations Party Chapters in the barracks. He served in the Bac Ky regional party headquarters leadership section of the Revolutionary Youth Association in 1928. He actively implemented the policy of "proletarian-ization," assigned members of the revolutionary organization to the factories and the mines. Or he went among the stevedores and people pulling vehicles on the piers to infiltrate the masses, propagandize, and campaign for the revolution, while training himself at the same time. He was also active himself in workers' campaigns. He participated directly in the leadership of the strike demanding increased pay by 200 workers in the Avia Company in Hanoi. The strike lasted from 25 May until 16 June 1929 and was successful.

The forceful development of patriotic and workers' campaigns created the necessary conditions for the birth of the communist party. In March 1929, he participated in the establishment of the first communist party chapter and on 17 June 1929 took part in the establishment of the Indo Chinese Communist Party.

Ngo Gia Tu was arrested by the colonialist French at the end of 1930 after all communist organizations, under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh, had been united into one unique communist party.

The intelligence agents questioned him:

"You are an intellectual. Why do you follow communism?"

"Wouldn't any intelligent man recognize that communism is beautiful?"

"So, then, you admit that you are a communist right?"

"I said that I love communism just like the communist intellectuals in your country love communism."

The colonialist French tortured him viciously. He floundered between life and death many times, but each time he woke up he reminded the men, "The life of the party is more precious than my life. We must sacrifice everything for the party."

The colonialist French charged that all communist soldiers were rebels in a special criminal court. He said:

"Not so. Imperialist France robbed Vietnam and oppressed and exploited the Vietnamese people. That has stimulated us to generate a revolution to chase out the imperialists and regain independence and freedom for the Fatherland and food and clothing for the people."

The judge rang the bell signalling that no one was to talk, but Ngo Gia Tu shouted:

"You men are speaking badly of our party. You must allow us to argue in its behalf."

Then he yelled:

"Down with imperialist France.

Long live the Indo Chinese Communist Party."

He was sentenced to life imprisonment and exiled to Con Dao. Under these arduous conditions, he often advised the men, "You must turn the jail into a school. Wherever you are you can be active for communism. In addition to struggling with his comrades against the harsh prison system, Ngo Gia Tu organized the men in political and cultural studies, while he studied without regard for food or fatigue.

The crossing to Con Dao in January of 1935 was unsuccessful and the vast ocean robbed us of Ngo Gia Tu when he was only 25 years old, a youth full of life.

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