

NGUYEN VAN TAM (1895- ?). Prime minister of the Associated

State of Vietnam from June 1952 until December 1953. A native of Tay Ninh province in South Vietnam, Nguyen Van Tam became a French citizen and served in several official positions within the French colonial administration before and after World War II. As a police official he became noted for his vigorous suppression of the Nam Ky revolt in November 1940, which earned him the sobriquet "the tiger of Cay Lai." After the formation of the Associated State of Vietnam, Tam served under Prime Minister Tran Van Huu as Minister of the Interior and, after November 1951, as Governor of North Vietnam. He succeeded Tran Van Huu as prime minister in the summer of 1952. During his stay in office he attempted to promote land reform and a democratization of the political process, but widespread official corruption undermined such efforts and led to his severe defeat in national elections held in January 1953. Nguyen Van Tam belatedly attempted to win nationalist support by demanding increased autonomy within the French Union but won little support from either patriotic elements or the French and was asked to resign from office in December. (See Bao Dai Solution; Nam Ky Revolt; Tran Van Huu)