

**NGUYEN KHANH.** South Vietnamese military officer and head of "young Turks" movement that took power in Saigon in January

1964. Born of a modest background in North Vietnam, Nguyen Khanh became a career military officer and rose rapidly in the ranks after the Geneva Conference in 1954, becoming deputy chief of staff under the regime of President Ngo Dinh Diem. In January 1964 he led a coup organized by younger military officers against the senior officers under General Duong Van Minh that had removed President Ngo Dinh Diem from power.

General Khanh and his "young Turks," middle-ranking military officers such as Nguyen Chanh Thi, Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky, were younger than the generation that had overthrown Diem and were inclined to favor the Americans over the French. They lacked political experience, however, and suffered from factionalism in their ranks. Acting under U.S. advice, Khanh established a civilian government, headed by a so-called Supreme National Council which replaced General Duong Van Minh as Chief of State. The factionalism continued, punctuated by growing tension between Catholic and Buddhist elements in Saigon and General Khanh was ousted from power in February 1965. (See Duong Van Minh; Military Revolutionary Council; Nguyen Cao Ky; Nguyen Van Thieu; Tran Van Huong)