

NGUYEN VAN THINH (1884-1946). Moderate political figure and president of the abortive "Autonomous Republic of Cochin China" in 1946. A medical doctor by profession, Nguyen Van Tinh joined the Constitutionalist Party in 1928 and then founded his own party, the Dang Dan Chu (Democratic Party), in 1937. After World War II he supported the French-sponsored movement for Cochinchinese autonomy and was named the president of the so-called Autonomous Republic of Cochin China in 1946. Discouraged at his failure to achieve credibility for the new republic, he committed suicide in November 1946. (See Autonomous Republic of Cochin China)