

NGUYEN VAN XUAN. Prime minister in the provisional government established by the French in 1948. Educated in France, Nguyen Van Xuan became a French citizen and a career officer in the French Army. After World War II he became involved in the separatist movement in Cochin China and was named Vice President and Minister of National Defense in the provisional Cochinese government under Doctor Nguyen Van Thinh. He became head of the government, which he renamed the Provisional Government of South Vietnam, in October 1947. In 1948, with French sponsorship, he was named president of a provisional central government. But General Xuan's efforts to win nationalist support

foundered on his reputation as a Cochinese separatist. After failing to achieve significant concessions from the French, he resigned as president after the return of Bao Dai in June of 1949. A new government under Chief of State Bao Dai was appointed on July 1, with Xuan as Vice President and Minister of National Defense. After the Geneva Conference of 1954, Nguyen Van Xuan, with other pro-French politicians, made an unsuccessful attempt to prevent the ascendance of Ngo Dinh Diem to power in South Vietnam. (See Autonomous Republic of Cochin China; Bao Dai Solution; Ngo Dinh Diem; Nguyen Van Thinh)