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REPLACEMENT OF PAVN FULL GENERAL SONG HAO BY GENERAL CHU HUY MAN AS THE DIRECT RESULT OF PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL LE DUAN'S EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE CONTROL OVER THE COMMAND OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM. APRIL - OCTOBER 1980.

IN JUNE 1980 SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV) PEOPLES ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) FULL GENERAL SONG HAO WAS REPLACED AS COMMANDER OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (TONG CUC CHINH TRI) BY CHU MUY HAN, A PRO LE DUAN POLITBURO MEMBER AND PAVN GENERAL. HAO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REASSIGNED TO THE LESS SIGNIFICANT POST OF COMMANDER, MND MILITARY INSPECTORATE (BAN THANH TRA QUAN DOI). ONE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT WAS TO SELECT PAVN OFFICERS FOR PROMOTION. IN APRIL 1980 COLONEL LE HAN, SON OF PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL LE DUAN, REVEALED THAT, BECAUSE GENERAL SONG HAO HAD REFUSED TO PROMOTE MILITARY OFFICERS WHO SUPPORTED LE DUAN, HAO WOULD SOON BE DENOUNCED AND DEMOTED AS PART OF LE DUAN'S ATTEMPT TO CONSOLIDATE CONTROL OVER THE PAVN COMMAND.

IN MAY 1980 SONG HAO WAS DENOUNCED BY LE DUAN POLITBURO SUPPORTERS, DEFENSE MINISTER VAN TIEN DUNG, GENERAL CHU HUY MAN, PHAM HUNG, LE DUC THO, DO MUOI AND TO HU. HAO'S LOYALTY TO LE DUAN WAS QUESTIONED, AND HE WAS ACCUSED OF BEING A CHINA SUPPORTER. IN JUNE 1980 SONG HAO WAS REPLACED BY CHU HUY MAN.

COLONEL LE HAN DID NOT

STATE WHETHER SONG HAO CONCURRENTLY LOST HIS POSITION AS CENTRAL PARTY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL CONTROL COMMITTEE.)

3. COLONEL LE HAN, LE DUAN'S SON, WAS A BELOW AVERAGE OFFICER WHO HAD BEEN PROMOTED ONLY THREE TIMES SINCE 1962. IN RECENT YEARS GENERAL SONG HAO HAD DENIED LE HAN PROMOTIONS SEVERAL TIMES BUT SHORTLY AFTER HAO'S REMOVAL LE HAN WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR COLONEL AND PUT IN COMMAND OF THE TRAINING DEPARTMENT OF THE MND. IN HIS NEW CAPACITY, LE HAN HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTING PAVN OFFICERS FOR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TRAINING AS WELL AS STUDY ABROAD.