

SOUTH VIETNAM

5 June 1961

BIOGRAPHIES OF NEW MEMBERS OF CABINET

Saigon TIMES OF VIETNAM in English 31 May 1961--S

(Text) Here is some biographical data on the six new Cabinet members of the Republic of Vietnam (name list of new Cabinet members only deleted--Ed.):

Mr. Truong Cong Cuu, the coordinating secretary of state for the cultural and social affairs group, was born in 1917 in Quang Nam, and studied and taught abroad for 15 years. He holds a "licentiate" in letters and a diploma of advanced philosophy from Paris University. From 1946 to 1954 he taught in various pedagogical and sociological schools in Paris.

He was elected vice chairman of the World Youth Association for three years from 1949 to 1951 and in this capacity he has attended international youth conferences in London, Brussels, Istanbul, and Ithaca, New York.

In 1946, Mr. Truong Cong Cuu declined an invitation to teach at Hanoi University offered by the government of Ho Chi Minh; again in 1949, he refused the education and youth portfolio offered to him by the Bao Dai government.

In 1954, he was appointed dean of the faculty of letters of Saigon University and served for three years. Since 1958, he has been the dean of the faculty of pedagogy in Saigon. Elected a deputy of the National Assembly in 1959, he was later elected first vice chairman of the assembly.

Mr. Truong Cong Cuu represented Vietnam at the UNESCO conference in Paris in 1958; at the meeting of the council of the Interparliamentary Union in Athens in April 1960; at the general assembly of this organization in Tokyo in September last year, and at the seminar on Russian political warfare in Paris, also last year.

Mr. Ngo Trong Hieu, the secretary of state for civic action, was born in 1912 at Thu Dau Mot, Binh Duong Province. He attended school in Hanoi and later graduated with a "licentiate" in law from the universities of Toulouse and Paris.

In 1937 he served in the National Assembly, was made the first agent holding the power of attorney in 1951, and in 1954 was appointed treasurer-general.

From 1956 to 1959, he served in Cambodia as the representative of Vietnam in that country. Mr. Ngo Trong Hieu is also the chairman of the Vietnamese League of Victims of Communists and the manager of the anticommunist magazine SONG.

Mr. Nguyen Quang Trinh, the secretary of state for national education, is the rector of the University of Saigon and a well-known scientist, scholar, and administrator.

A doctor in physics (University of Paris, 1943) (brackets as published) Prof. Trinh has authored several scientific publications presenting the results of his research on the thermodynamics of solutions and the problems of molecular and atomic structure.

Since 1953, while being successively elected dean of the faculty of sciences, then appointed rector of the university, Prof. Trinh has continued to teach cybernetics, thermodynamics, and atomistics. He has participated in many international cultural and scientific conferences.

Among other things, Rector Trinh is the first president of the General Association of Teachers of Vietnam, chairman of the National Committee for the International Geophysical Year, and chairman of the World University Service National Committee of Vietnam. He is also a member of the Pacific Science Council and serves on the executive board of the Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning.

Mr. Hoang Khac Thanh, the new secretary of state for national economy, was born in 1927 in Hanoi, North Vietnam. He was graduated from the Paris School of Advanced Commercial studies in 1951, and from 1951 to 1955 served in France as an executive of the Bank of Indochina.

Mr. Thanh returned to Vietnam in 1955 and was appointed director of the Bank of Industry and Commerce of Vietnam; in 1956 he became supervisor general of commercial credit. At the same time, Mr. Thanh has been chairman of the Donai Paper Society and the Vietnamese Insurance and Reinsurance society.

Mr. Tran Dinh De, the secretary of health and sanitation, was a 1952 medical graduate of Johns Hopkins University in the United States and a 1955 agrégé of medicine in Paris. He has been director of the Tu Du maternity hospital, director of the school of midwifery, and professor on the faculty of medicine at Saigon University. He is 44.

Mr. Nguyen Van Dinh, Secretary of public works and communications, was public works director in 1954 and is a Paris graduate in mining engineering. He has been notably responsible for the organization of canal building. He also organized the National Office for Electric Power, in charge of equipping, producing, and distributing electric power throughout the territory. He is 57.

~~SAIGON-CHOLON PRESS REVIEW, 5 JUNE~~

~~Review of Articles and Editorials in Saigon-Cholon Newspapers~~

~~(Editorial Report--S) Headlines: Kennedy and Khrushchev Discuss Laos, Berlin, Nuclear Disarmament, and General Disarmament in Vienna; Kennedy Flies to London for Talks With Macmillan; Khrushchev Preparing To Invite Kennedy To Visit Moscow; Princes Souvanna Phouma and Souphanouvong Leave for Geneva, and Khrushchev To Return to Moscow Today.~~

Front page reportage deals with Nehru's coming visit to the United States; the South Korean President's approval of the Military Government's anticommunist policy; the terror wave in the Dominican Republic; the Austrian Government's state banquet for Kennedy and Khrushchev; the Western powers' memorandum to Moscow reaffirming their unalterable position on Berlin; a report that Leopoldville authorities will soon release Tshombe, and the talks at Evian.

Vietnamese editorials: TU DO takes advantage of the Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting in Vienna to hail Kennedy's sincerity and desire for peace and expects that the U.S. President will show himself resolute at the Vienna conference.

In another editorial, the same paper observes that following his failure to overthrow the Fidel Castro regime President Kennedy's policy toward Cuba has become more rigid and believes the United States will rely on the pan-American bloc to create difficulties for the Castro regime before launching an attack on Cuba.

TIENG DAN severely condemns the Soviet Union's "stubborn attitude" and its "fake peace policy" as constituting the main reasons for the current deadlock at the Geneva conference on Laos and urges the free world to "approve Thailand's proposal to send SEATO troops to Laos to repulse the communists."

DONG NAI, commenting on dictator Trujillo's assassination, says his death has liberated the freedom-thirsty people of the Dominican Republic and dealt a serious blow to the communist plot to use this country as a second bridgehead after Cuba to infiltrate the Western hemisphere.

5 June 1961

Chinese editorials: MAY JIH LUAN ZAN says the fact that Kennedy and Khrushchev immediately discussed the Laotian question in Vienna indicates that they are both eager to break the current deadlock at the Geneva conference on Laos but feels that even if the Geneva talks are resumed they will not achieve any good result because the communists will certainly refuse to make concessions when they have achieved considerable military gains in Laos. The daily concludes: "Unless the United States is determined to intervene by force Laos is doomed."

AH CHAU JIH PAO says that since Khrushchev is willing to sit down and talk with Kennedy, the U.S. President should take the occasion to test the Soviet leader's sincerity for peace by asking him to make clear his position on the nuclear test ban issue, thus making it possible for both sides to reach an agreement.

In another editorial, the same paper says that as long as Prince Souphanouvong remains a communist tool and refuses to come to his senses and as long as Prince Souvanna Phouma entertains a political illusion that a Laotian neutrality with the inclusion of Pathet Lao elements in a coalition government is possible, there will be no hope for Prince Boun Oum, a clear-sighted and patriotic leader, to unite his country.

YUAN TUNG JIH PAO, commenting on Souvanna Phouma's statement that Laos has no need for communism, expresses doubt that this statement represents his true views as his words and deeds have favored the Pathet Lao. Domestic news: Papers report that on 3 June President Diem presided at the graduation ceremony of the 15th class of cadets at the National Military Academy in Dalat; that between 1 and 2 June he made an inspection tour of Binh Tuy Province, and that Col. Tran Ngoc Nguyen has been appointed chief of Go Cong District, Tay Ninh Province, replacing Nguyen Van who was killed in a communist ambush 25 May.

Papers also report that on 3 June the chief of Long Thanh My village, Gia Dinh Province, was assassinated by communist terrorists; that on 2 June five communist agents surrendered to the authorities at Tan Thach Village, Kien Hoa Province; that on 31 May the republican army, civil guards, and militiamen clashed with two communist companies in Bao Thanh village, Kien Hoa Province, killing 167 and seizing a large quantity of ammunition and documents; and that on 30 May militiamen killed 11 communists when they tried to attack the Lang Sen militia post, Kien Hoa Province. Papers also report that from January to April 1961 some 225 communists in Phuoc Thanh Province were killed, 51 wounded, and 65 taken prisoner.