



EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SAIGON, VIETNAM

JOINT U.S. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Dear Dr. An:

Your very kind letter of the 7th arrived this morning, and as usual it was good to hear from you. For some reason my days seem to lack about 8 hours which I need to keep up with personal correspondences -- perhaps I am sleeping too much?

I have several requests from you, and will try to dispose of two or three of them in this letter. As for the "Who's Who" list you want, I have been informed that it is now ready to go to press. I should be able to get you a copy as soon as it comes out -- certainly within a few weeks or a month.

A couple of weeks ago I believe I sent you an updated Party Organization list (based on Zagoria's chart on page 163). I promised you an update of his DRV Government chart, too (see page 160). I will try to include all of the information needed to update Zagoria's charts:

People's Supreme Court
President

Pham Van Bach

People's Supreme Organ of Control
Chairman

Hoang Quoc Viet

National Assembly

Election for 4th Nat. Assy. is scheduled for 11 April 1971.

President of the DRV

President
Vice President

Ton Duc Thang
Nguyen Luong Bang

Standing Committee of the Nat. Assembly

Chairman	Truong Chinh
Vice Chairman	Hoang Van Hoan
	Nguyen Xien
	Tran Dang Khoa — ZAGORIA'S SPELLING "DONG" IS NOT CORRECT.
	Nguyen Thi Thap
	Chu Van Tan
Secretary-General	Ton Quang Phiet

Council of Ministers

Premier	Pham Van Dong
Deputy Premiers	Pham Hung
	Vo Nguyen Giap
	Phan Ke Toai
	Nguyen Duy Trinh
	Le Thanh Nghi
	Nguyen Con
	Do Muoi

Boards Under Premier's Office

Agriculture	Hoang Anh
Industry	Tran Danh Tuyen
Finance & Commerce	Nguyen Thanh Binh
Home Affairs	Nguyen Van Tao
Culture and Education	Tran Quang Huy
Propaganda & Training	Dao Duy Tung

Ministries

Agriculture	Nguyen Van Loc
Communications and Transportation	Phan Trong Tue
Construction	Bui Quang Tao
Culture	Hoang Minh Phu Giam
Education	Nguyen Van Huyen
Finance	Dang Viet Chau
Food & Foodstuffs	Ngo Minh Loan

Mechanical Engineering and Metallurgy

Dinh Duc Thien

Power and Coal

Nguyen Huu Mai

Higher Education and Professional Secondary Schools

Ta Quang Bui

Home Trade

Hoang Quoc Thinh

Zagoria's spelling "Trinh" is not correct.

Interior

Ung Van Khiem

Labor

Nguyen Huu Khieu

Light Industry

Kha Van Can

Materials

Tran Danh Tuyen

National Defense

Vo Nguyen Giap

State Farms

~~Ng~~ Nghiem Xuan Yem

Water Conservation

Ha Ke Tan

Foreign Affairs

Nguyen Duy Trinh

Foreign Trade

Phan Anh

Public Security

Tran Quoc Hoan

Public Health

Nguyen Van Huong

Commissions

State Planning Commission

Nguyen Con

National Scientific and Technical Commission

Tran Dai Nghia

Social Sciences Commission

Nguyen Khanh Toan (Professor)

Nationalities Commission

Le Quang Ba

National Reunification Commission

Nguyen Van Vinh (Major General)

State Basic Construction Commission

Tran Dai Nghia

State Banks Commission

Ta Hoang Co

State Price Commission

Do Muoi

Commission for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries

Pham Ngoc Thuan

Physical Culture and Sports Commission

Hoang Van Thai

Central Emulation Commission Le Thanh Nghi

National Defense Council

Chairman	So far as I know, Ho Chi Minh has not been replaced here. If he has, it is <u>possibly</u> by Pres. Ton Duc Thang.
Vice Chairmen	Pham Van Dong Vo Nguyen Giap
Members	Nguyen Duy Trinh Tran Quoc Hoan Nguyen Van Tran Chu Van Tan Song Hao

Diplomatic Recognition

(What follows is a list of countries and the names of the DRV Ambassador to each country. Some of these may have changed during the past year or 18 months, but I believe this list to be reasonably accurate):

COUNTRY	AMBASSADOR
Albania	Nguyen Van Hong
Algeria	Nguyen Van Phat
Bulgaria	Luong Xuong
Burma	Le Tung Son (Consul-General)
Cambodia	(was Nguyen Thuong, who I believe is still accredited to the Sihanouk "government")
Ceylon	(Consul-General) unknown
Communist China	Ngo Minh Loan
Congo (Br)	Nguyen Duc Thieng
Cuba	Ngo Mau
Czechoslovakia	Phan Van Su
East Germany	Nguyen Viet Dung
France	Mai Van Bo (General Delegate)
Guinea	Nguyen Duc Thieng
Hungary	Hoang Luong
India	Nguyen Hoa (Consul-General)
Indonesia	(as of Aug 1968 it was Pham Binh)
Laos	Le Van Hien

Mali	Nguyen Ngoc Va
Mauritania	Nguyen Ngoc Vu
Mongolia	Nguyen Huy Thu
North Korea	Le Thiet Hung
Poland	Do Phat Quang
Rumania	Hoang Tu
Soviet Union	Nguyen Tho Chan
Syria	Pham Ngoc Que
Tanzania	Ha Van Binh (Charge d'Affaires)
United Arab Republic	Nguyen Xuan
Yemen	Nguyen Xuan

I don't know who the current Ambassador is in Yugoslavia.
You will note that many Ambassadors represent the DRV in more than
one country.

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I hope the above is enough for you to prepare an updated
DRV Governmental Organization Chart, similar perhaps to the one
Professor Zagoria used. If you have any questions, let me know.

I am afraid that I will be of less help in finding additional
biographies for you. You sent me a list of 70 names, which you wanted
biographical information on. You should have received bio sketches on
16 of them a few weeks ago. I will give you what I have found thus
far on the remainder of them now:

Le Quang Ba -- In addition to being a Lao Dong Central Committee (CC)
member, he is also Chairman of the Nationalities Commission (see page
3 of this letter); Chairman of the Minority Affairs Board, and a
National Assembly Deputy from Cao Bang Province (which is north on the
Chinese-DRV boarder).

Nguyen Luong Bang -- Vice President of North Vietnam, a CC member,
Chairman of the Control Department of the Central Committee, and
former Chairman of the Inspection Commission, which was dissolved
in April of 1965. I will send you a Hoc Tap biography of Bang soon
(I'm waiting for my secretary to Xerox it).

Tran Tu Binh -- To my knowledge this individual is not a prominent
DRV personality, and he is not listed by Hanoi as being a CC member.

Duong Quoc Chinh -- Dang Lao Dong Central Committee member, National
~~Security~~

Assembly ~~member~~ deputy from Hai Hung Province (Southeast of Hanoi); former Minister of Agriculture (replaced by Hoang Anh in April 1965); headed a 5-man DRV agricultural delegation to Communist China in September of 1964.

Nguyen Con -- CC member; Vice Premier; Secretary of the Central Committee; Chairman of the State Planning Commission (see page 3 of this letter); member of a DRV delegation to Peking in early October 1964.

Tran Huu Duc -- CC member; Replaced Nguyen Khang as Minister attached to Premier's Office in April 1965; Chairman, State Reception Committee; Former Chairman, Agricultural Board, Secretariat of the Premier's Office (was replaced by Hoang Anh in April 1965); Former Chairman "Truⁿg Bo (Central VN) Administrative Committee".

Vo Thuc Dong -- CC member; Secretary, Nghe An Province Party Committee (Nghe An is Ho Chi Minh's home province; the Province Party Committee is the Province level equivalent ~~to~~ the Politburo at National level).

Ha Huy Giap -- CC member; Deputy Minister of Culture; President, Vietnam-Korean Friendship Association; head of Ministry of Culture delegation to North Korea and Communist China in September 1964, and of several other DRV delegations (to Indonesia, France, North Korea).

Nguyen Van Kinh -- Central Committee Member; Vice President, Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People; Executive Member, Vietnam-Soviet Union Friendship Association; Deputy to National Assembly; Former Ambassador to Moscow (left 12 Jan 67); member of DRV delegations to Prague (May-June 66), Sofia (Nov 66), and East Berlin (April 67).

Nguyen Khang -- Central Committee member; Deputy Director, Premier's Office; Former Minister attached to Premier's Office (replaced by Tran Huu Duc in April 1965).

Le Van Lu^ong -- Central Committee member; Secretary, Central Committee (as of October 1968).

Tran Luong -- Central Committee member. No other information known.

Chu Huy Man -- Central Committee member. No other information known.

Do Muoi -- Central Committee Member; Chairman, State Price Committee (appointed November 1967), former Minister of Home Trade (replaced by Nguyen Thanh Binh in January 1963).

Ha Thi Que (Mrs) -- Also listed as Ha Que -- Central Committee Member; Vice Chairman, Central Committee Control Board; Vice President, Vietnam Women's Union; Chairman, National Assembly Credentials Committee; Member of several delegations to China.

Bui Quang Tao -- Central Committee member; Minister of Construction (see p.2 of this letter).

Le Quoc Than -- Central Committee member; Deputy Minister of Public Security.

Nguyen ~~Thanh Binh~~ Thanh Binh -- Alternate member, Central Committee; Chairman, Financial and Commerce Board, Secretariat of the Premier's Office (replaced Pham Hung ((thought to be head of COSVN)) in August 1968); Former Minister of Home-Trade (replaced in July 1964); Former Chairman, State Price Committee (replaced by Do Muoi in Nov 1967).

Dinh Thi Can (Mrs) -- Alternate member, CC; Deputy Minister of Public Health; Vice President, Vietnam Red Cross Society; Head of public health and red cross delegation to Communist China in July-August 1964; Head of Vietnam Women's Union delegation to East Germany in Feb '67.

Le Tho Chan -- No information on this individual. Not thought to be a Central Committee member or alternate. Possibly an error by Zagoria, confused with Nguyen Tho Chan (see next entry).

Nguyen Tho Chan -- (Zagoria lists as ~~Nguyen Tho Chanh~~ Nguyen Tho Chanh, which is not correct. This contributed to my analysis of his inclusion of Le Tho Chan); Alternate member of Central Committee; Ambassador to Moscow; former Secretary of Province Party Committee in Quang Ninh Province (easternmost province on DRV-Chinese border); Head of Party and Govt. delegation of Quang Ninh Province to Canton, China, in October 1964; Visited Sweden and Finland in early 1968.

Le Quang Dao (Maj. Gen.) -- Alternate Member, Central Committee; Deputy Director, General Political Department of the Vietnam People's Army; Political Commissar, DRV Navy.

Nguyen Don (either Maj. Gen or Brig. Gen) -- Alternate member, CC; Deputy Minister of ~~National Defense~~ National Defense; Deputy Chief of General Staff, VPA; Head of military delegation to USSR in February 1968.

Tran Quy Hai (Maj. Gen.) -- Alternate Member, Central Committee; Deputy Minister of National Defense; Deputy Chief of General Staff, VPA).

Tran Quang Huy -- Alternate member, CC; Chairman, Culture and Education Board, Secretariat to Premier's Office; Vice Chairman, Propaganda and Education Board, Central Committee; Member of Party delegation (led by Le Duc Tho) to Bucharest in July 1965 -- also visited East Germany and France one month later; Head of Party delegation to East Germany in September 1967.

Le Hoang -- Alternate Member, CC; Secretary of Province Party Committee, Bac Thai Province (north of Hanoi, south of Cao Bang Province).

Nguyen Khai -- Alternate member, CC; Vice Chairman, CC Organization Board.

Nguyen Huu Khieu -- Alternate member, CC; Minister of Labor (see p 3 of ~~document~~)

see *
p 8, for
Tran Quy Huy

Nguyen Huu Khieu (Continued from page 7): . . . the letter); Chairman, Rural Work Board of Central Committee; National Assembly Deputy from Vinh Linh Special Zone (immediately above DMZ, southernmost zone of DRV); Former member, Standing Committee of National Assembly; Member, DRV delegation (led by Nguyen Duy Thuan) to Pyongyang.

* /NOTE: Just realized that I listed Tran Quy Huu. I believe I covered him in an earlier letter. I believe Zagoria contacted him with Tran Quy Hai and Tran Quang Huy, perhaps purposefully to get others who copy his list. I have no information on a Tran Quy Huu.

Hoang Van Kieu -- Central Committee alternate member. No other info.

Le Liem -- Alternate member, CC; Deputy Minister of Education; Secretary, Vietnam Education Workers' Union; Former Chairman, Culture and Education Board, National Premier's Office (replaced in October 1965).

Ngo Minh Loan -- Alternate member, CC; Assistant to Peking (see p 4 this letter); Former Deputy Minister of Industry; Visited Pakistan and Afghanistan in May '66.

Nguyen Van Loc -- Alternate Member, CC; Minister of Agriculture; Former Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Publisher, Hoc Ky Thuat Nong Nghiep (Hanoi -- bi-weekly).

Nguyen Huu Mai -- Alternate Member, CC; Chairman of Central Committee Industrial Board; Former Deputy Minister of Communications and Transportation; ~~Minister of Power and Coal (for Le Thanh Nghi in November 1967)~~ Minister of Heavy Industry - replaced

Ha Ke Tan -- Alternate Member, Minister of Water Conservation (often called "Water Conservancy"); Chairman, Central Committee Flood and Typhoon Control Board.

Hoang Tung -- Alternate member, CC; Editor-in-Chief, Nhan Dan (Party daily); President, Vietnam Journalists Association; President, Vietnam-Cuban Friendship Association; ~~Secretary~~ Vice Chairman, Central Committee Propaganda and Education Board; Member of Party delegations to Indonesia (May '65), Moscow (April '66), and USSR (Nov '67) -- headed Nhan Dan delegation to North Korea on 9 September 1965.

Tran Danh Tuyen -- Alternate member, CC; Chairman, Industrial Board (replaced Le Thanh Nghi in February 1967); Vice President, Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions; Vice Chairman, Central Committee Emulation Board; President, Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association; National Assembly Deputy from Haiphong; Former Secretary-General, Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions; Former Chairman, National Assembly Planning and Budget Commission; Former Member, National Assembly Standing Committee; Leader of several trade union delegations.

Le Thanh -- Alternate Member Central Committee; Chairman, Central Committee Agriculture Board; Deputy head of youth and student delegation to Sofia in July-August 1968.

Dinh Duc Thien (Rank ?) -- Alternate member, Central Committee; Director, General Logistics Department, VPA; Deputy Head, DRV Government economic delegation which concluded economic aid agreements with 9 Communist countries, July-October 1967.

Ngo Thuyen -- Alternate Member, Central Committee; Secretary, Thanh Hoa (just north of Nghe An) Province Party Committee.

Bui Cong Tru ng -- Alternate Member, CC; Former Vice Chairman, National Scientific Research Commission (this commission was reorganized into the National Scientific and Technical Commission and the Social Sciences Commission (see p 3 this letter) in October of 1965. The first of these is also referred to as the National Scientific and Technical Research Commission, and Trung is currently a Vice Chairman of it.

Nguyen Trong Vinh -- Alternate Member, Central Committee; No further information.

Nguyen Van Huong (Dr) -- Minister of Public Health since March 1969; Chairman, National Assembly Cultural and Social Commission; Vice Chairman, Vietnam-Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee; Presidium Member, Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee; Director, Vietnam Eastern Medicine Institute; National Assembly Deputy (representing Long Xuyen Province in South Vietnam -- (NOTE: At present neither the Viet Cong nor the GVN recognize a "Long Xuyen Province." The town of Long Xuyen is in the Mekong Delta, and is included in both GVN ~~and~~ and VC "An Giang Province" -- which are not identical but which ~~both~~ both include Long Xuyen. It is likely that under pre-partition Viet Minh geography, there was a delta province named Long Xuyen. If you are interested, I can research this further.)) Former Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee; Former Vice Chairman of the National Scientific Research Commission (reorganized in October 1965 -- not known to hold any position in the new structure.)

Ton QuCang Phiet -- Secretary-General of the National Assembly Standing Committee; Chairman, Vietnam Afro-~~Asian~~ Asian Solidarity Committee; Member of Central Committee of Vietnam Fatherland Front; Vice President, Vietnam-China Friendship Association; Executive Member, Vietnam-Soviet Union Friendship Association; Member, National Assembly Cultural and Social Commission; head of several friendship association delegations to the Soviet Union, Communist China, France, and Ghana.

Phan Trong Tue (Brig. Gen.) -- Minister of Communications and Transportation; National Assembly Deputy from Hay Tay Province (Southwest of Hanoi); Head, railway delegation to Peking, May 1965.

Nguyen Van Huyen (Professor) -- Minister of Education; Vice President, Vietnam China Friendship Association; Vice President, Vietnam Historians Association; Headed Vietnam-China Friendship Association delegation to Communist China in September 1967; ((NOTE: There is a National Assembly Delegate from Haiphong who is also named Nguyen Van Huyen, but I am not at all convinced it is the same man.))

Dang Viet Chau - Minister of Finance since April 1965; Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission; Former Chairman, Committee for Scientific and Technical Cooperation; Head of at least two scientific and technical delegations (1 to Peking, 1 to East Europe).

Hoang Quoc Trinh ((Zagoria called him "Hoang Quoc Trinh" which is incorrect)) -- Minister of Home Trade (was Acting Minister from November 1966 until November 1967, when he became Minister).

Nguyen Van Tao -- Former Minister of Labor (replaced in October 1965, see p 3 of this letter); Chairman, Home Affairs Board, Secretariate of the Premier's Office; Vice Chairman, Emulation Board; National Assembly Deputy from Rach Gia Province (South Vietnam -- known as Rach Gia by the Viet Cong, and as Kien Giang by the GVN ((Rach Gia is the GVN Province Capital))).

Kha Van Can ((NOTE: I've also seen this listed as Kha Vang Can, but never as Khan Van Can, as it was on the list you sent me)) -- Minister of Light Industry since July 1960; Publisher of Ky Thuat Cong Nghiep Nhe (Han Coi - Bi-monthly); President, Vietnam Swimming Association; Head of DRV Government delegation to Poland in June of 1967.

Pham Ngoc Thach -- Former Minister of Public Health, died on 7 November 1968 and was replaced by Dr. Nguyen Van Huong (see p.9 of this letter).

Tran Dai Nghia -- Chairman, State Basic Construction Commission; Chairman, National Scientific and Technical Commission; Elected foreign member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences on 8 February 1966. ((NOTE: There is also a Brig. General Tran Dai Nghia, who is Deputy Director of the VPA General Logistics Department, but it is highly unlikely that the two are the same man.))

Ta Quang Co (also listed as Ta Hoang Co at times by DRV) -- Chairman, State Banks Commission.

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As I believe you will see, Dr. An, the information I have provided above confirms your ~~assumption~~ suggestion that Mr. Zagoria's list is outdated. Additionally, there were several errors in it from the start. Still, it is about as accurate as any list available in 1967, so one should not be too rough on him.

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I must apologize for the appearance of this letter. My secretary has been extremely busy working on some interviews I tape recorded of some North Vietnamese defectors from ~~Sambodia~~ ^{Laos}, and I have been forced to do this at my apartment on an old portable which as I am sure you've noticed skips a space at will, and refuses to space equally at random. I will go over the letter with a pen and try to make it legible for you.

I wish I shared your confidence as to my chances of being accepted at Hoover. If I do apply there, I may request that you write a letter of recommendation for me. I'm not sure that you would want to do that, as you haven't even met me, but I have been out of college too long, and I'm not sure anyone at Indiana will remember me. I'm sure your recommendation would be given serious consideration at Hoover, where I am quite sure they are familiar with ~~my~~ your name and reputation. I would of course expect you to point out in a recommendation -- if you agreed to write me one -- that you have not met me and have never had me for a student. You wrote that you had read some of the articles I sent you, so I guess it would have to be based entirely on those.

Again, thank you very much for your kind remarks in your most recent letter. I will send you a copy of the "Who's Who" thing as soon as it comes back from the printer.

Most sincerely yours,



Robert F. Turner