

Prime Minister

Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky was appointed Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Congress of the Armed Forces on June 19, 1965, and functions as Prime Minister. He continues to serve, as he has since December 1963, as Commander of the Vietnamese Air Force.

Ky has been described as one of South Viet Nam's most colorful and courageous leaders. During his administration, he has placed particular emphasis on strengthening the pacification program, on trying to solve Viet Nam's serious economic problems, and on moving the nation toward a return to civilian constitutional rule.

General Ky was born in North Vietnam on September 8, 1930. He entered the military service in 1951 and attended a French aviation school in 1952. Following additional flight training in France in 1954 he received several promotions in rapid order so that by 1957 he was a Major. He received six months training at Maxwell Air Force Base in 1958. By 1960 he was a Lieutenant Colonel. He was one of the supporters of the November 1963 coup against Diem. In December 1963, he was appointed Commander of the Air Force; he was promoted to Subbrigadier General in April 1964, and to Air Vice Marshal the following July. For one month in early 1965, he served as Minister of Youth and Sports.

Ky is married, a Buddhist, and speaks English and French fluently.

March 1951 - Lao Dong Party surfaced & replaced V-M. Many left V-M then, & some decided to fight w/ French against V-M. This a key date, w/ many who considered this a betrayal of national cause. Flew combat missions after trained in Marrakesh. Also was that only, & this after this critical decision made. Also was after French signed agreement w/ State of VN giving major concessions of independence to them. Established VN Natl Army 1951. [Elysée Agreement - 2/1/51] A V-M who sided w/ French before 1951 truly suspect. But after - This is a different question, & an important one.