

August 15th, 1962

To Whom It May Concern:

One of the foremost citizens of South Vietnam and a man who is a great patriot, is Mr Nguyen TRAN, who has been in public office for many years.

Mr TRAN is proceeding shortly to the United States on a special assignment. While there, we think it would be highly desirable for him to interview a few appropriate key individuals, for reasons cited herewith.

There is no question that Mr TRAN knows the present situation in this country, and its problems, exceedingly well. He keenly recognizes the great importance of regaining the confidence of the people and how this could best be done. He thoroughly understands the Communist problem, having dealt with it for several years. He also fully understands the importance and significance of the political and ideological factors here.

Prior to 1945, Mr TRAN was a judge and an administration official; he refused to cooperate with the French or with Bao Dai on their return in 1947 and 1948. He took a very active part in the national movement against colonialism, feudalism and Communism -- a movement which was destined to bring Ngo Dinh DIEM to power in 1954. At the insistence of President DIEM, he became Chief of Khanh Hoa Province in July, 1954; subsequently Chief of Dinh Tuong Province in 1956. Thanks to his dynamic qualities, his enlightened patriotism, his savoir faire, integrity and justice, he restored order to both provinces in record time, under difficult circumstances. He soon won country-wide fame. In 1958 he was recalled to Saigon. On August 30, 1959, as a candidate for the National Assembly from the First District of Saigon he was elected by a large majority, defeating the government candidate by 11,263 votes to 4,723. Nevertheless, the government arbitrarily refused to let him take his seat. Since that time, Mr TRAN has declined to accept any political appointment.

We believe that Mr Nguyen TRAN can render a real service to the free world by presenting his views and advice on the situation in South Vietnam today.

Mgr LE-HUU-TU

Former Bishop of Phat-Diem

Former Chief Chaplain of the Vietnam Army,



P.M. PHAM NGOC-CHI

*Handwritten signature: + S. T. Fatmahan*