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The President and Vice President of the



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**THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**



His Excellency NGUYEN VAN THIEU
President of the Republic of Viet-Nam

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

NGUYEN VAN THIEU is the second President of the Republic of Viet Nam and also the first President of the Second Republic after the Constitution of April 1, 1967.

NGUYEN VAN THIEU was born April 5, 1923 at the village of Tri-Thuy, province of Ninh-Thuan in the southern part of Central Viet Nam.

NGUYEN VAN THIEU comes from an average family which makes its living through hard work. His father and mother had to work hard to raise their five children, and their children - three boys and two girls had also to help each other in earning their living.

In his early age and until he began his secondary education NGUYEN VAN THIEU had to help his two sisters in their business while going to school.

Toward the end of World War II, in the years 1945 - 1946, like many other young men NGUYEN VAN THIEU had to temporarily abandon his schooling in order to join the patriotic youth groups in the movement for National Reconstruction. However, it was also during that period that NGUYEN VAN THIEU had realized that the Communists openly exploited the sacrifices of the Nationalists in order to impose upon the Vietnamese an atheistic alien ideology. NGUYEN VAN THIEU then decided to serve another cause, the true nationalist cause.

In 1948 the Nationalist Army was formed and the first National Military Academy was set up at the old Capital city of HUE in order to train officers for the Army. It was then that NGUYEN VAN THIEU, just graduated from the Merchant Navy made up his mind and chose to enlist in the Army, for he saw the long awaited opportunity to truly serve the country in the fight against the Communist enemy. He was graduated from the National Military Academy in 1949 with the rank of Second Lieutenant.

Throughout the war from 1949 to 1954, from Second Lieutenant and Platoon Leader to Lieutenant Colonel and Regiment Commander and Sector Commander, NGUYEN VAN THIEU has fought on all battlefields in Central, South and North Viet Nam, from the Western Delta to Hung Yen, Phu Ly in North Viet Nam to the Atlante campaign in Central Viet Nam in 1954. Throughout that period NGUYEN VAN THIEU has obtained many glorious victories, and won the reputation of a virtuous and honest officer with leadership talent on the battlefields as well as good strategy at the various Staff Commands.

He has gone abroad many times for training, first at the Infantry School in Coetquidan (France) in 1949, then at the U.S. Command and Staff Colleges in Fort Leavenworth in 1957 and Fort Bliss in 1960 and at Okinawa in 1959.

With his experience in the battlefields and his qualities of leadership in his function as Deputy Commander of the 2nd Military Region and Commander of the 21st Infantry Division, Lieutenant Colonel NGUYEN VAN THIEU was named as Commandant of the National Military Academy in Dalat in 1956. He served in that capacity for 4 years, and during that time had trained many classes of prominent officers in the Republic of Viet Nam Armed Forces today.

After the National Military Academy, Colonel THIEU was assigned as Deputy Chief of Staff then Acting Chief of Staff, Joint Operations Command in 1960.

In 1961 he was named Commander of the 1st. Infantry Division and concurrently Commander of the 11th Tactical District, responsible for all of the Demilitarized Zone, and the provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien. In December of 1962 he left the 1st. to become Commander of the 5th. Infantry Division and concurrently Commander of the 32nd Tactical District, comprising the 9 provinces of the Western part of Southern Viet Nam.

After the Revolution of November 1, 1963 General THIEU had successively been assigned as Chief of Staff of the Army, Vice Minister for Defense and Secretary General of the Armed Forces Council, then Commander of the IV Army Corps and IV Tactical Zone, and Deputy Prime Minister concurrently Minister for Defense

In June of 1965 when a civilian government turned over the power to the Army, the Armed Forces Council unanimously chose him to be the Chairman of the National Leadership Council, and in that capacity Lieutenant General NGUYEN VAN THIEU acted as Chief of State of the Republic of Viet Nam.

In the election held on September 3, 1967, Lieutenant General THIEU was elected President, the first President of the Second Republic. On October 31, 1967 he took the oath of office.

A brilliant general, General THIEU received many citations and was awarded practically all the decorations of the Armed Forces such as the National Order 2nd class, the Army Medal 1st class, the Air Force Order 1st class, the Navy Order 1st class, 11 citations, the Hazardous Service Medal, the Leadership Medal etc...

President NGUYEN VAN THIEU is married and has two children. The First Lady, née Nguyen Thi Mai Anh, a native of the Delta Province of Dinh Tuong is a benefactor to all the military dependents as well as the war widows and orphans. When President NGUYEN VAN THIEU was still serving in the Army, the First Lady was the Chairman of the National Association for the Protection of Military Dependents. Recently, as President of the Vietnamese Women In-Service to the Society Association, the First Lady has started the construction of the VI DAN (For the People) Hospital, one of the most modern medical installations of the country. And on September 4, 1971 President NGUYEN VAN THIEU presided over the inauguration of the Out-Patient Ward, the first ward of the hospital just completed.

Besides her duties of a mother to her daughter Nguyen Thi Tuan Anh aged 17 and her son Nguyen Quang Loc aged 10, the First Lady has helped the President greatly in the domain of social welfare, from charity works to greater tasks for the relief of the victims of natural disasters and the victims of the war.

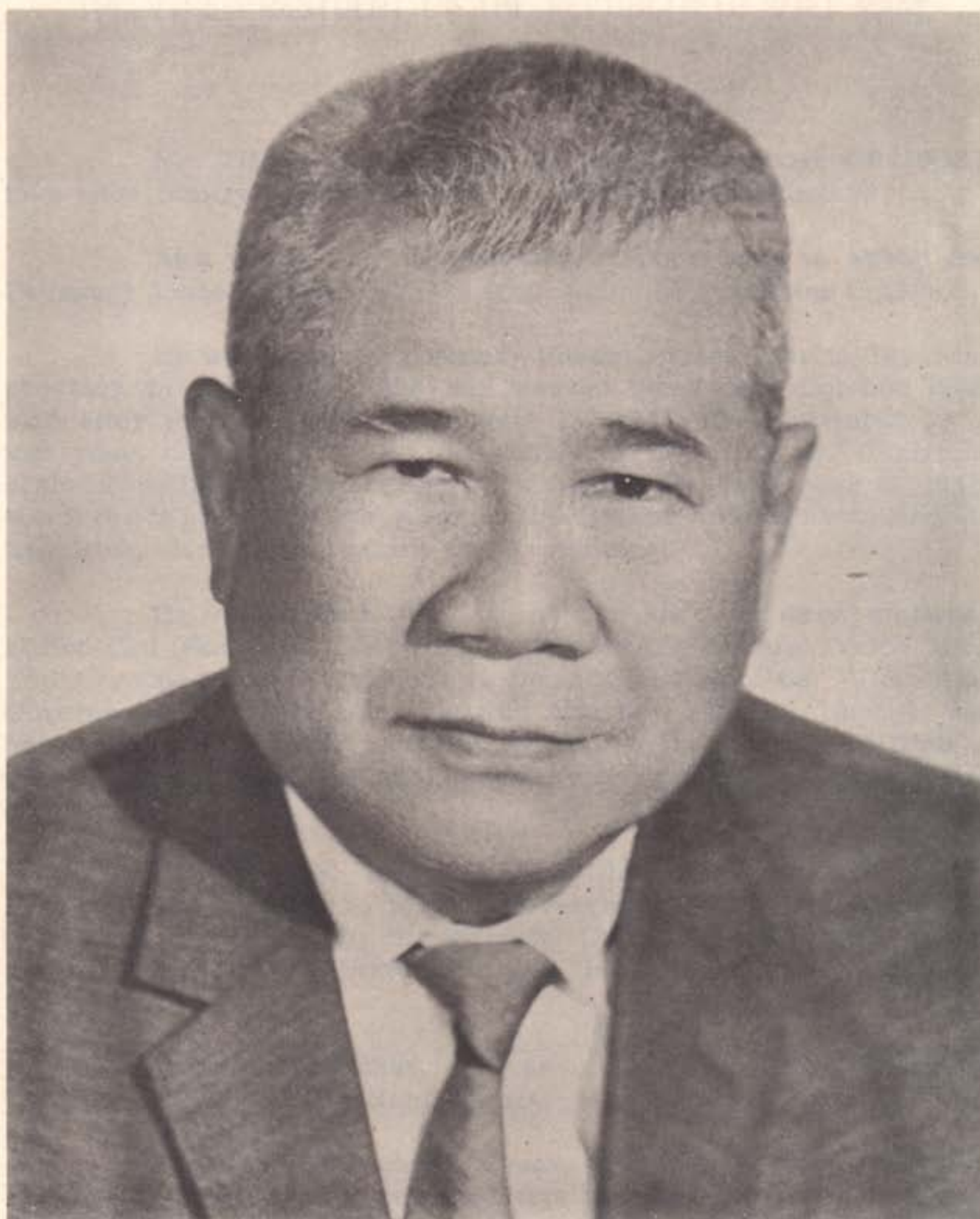


The First Lady of the Republic of Vietnam



The First Family

(daughter Nguyen Thi Tuan Anh, The First Lady
the President, son Nguyen Quang Loc)



His Excellency TRAN VAN HUONG
Vice President of the Republic of Viet-Nam

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Mr. TRAN VAN HUONG, 68, a politician born (in 1903) in a poor family in Vinh-Long is a follower of Confucius.

At a young age, he received a scholarship to attend the Pedagogy School in Hanoi in 1923 from which he graduated in 1926.

He was appointed Primary Education Inspector in Tay-Ninh province in September 1926 and served there until October 1945, well after the coup d'état of August 25, 1945. On September 13 of that year, he was elected by the people of Tay-Ninh as Chairman of the Tay-Ninh Administrative Committee. On November 8, 1945, when the French, in the wake of the British troops, returned to Tay-Ninh, Mr. Huong joined the Resistance.

On December 5, 1945, as he and his men were stationed at Ben Cau (4kms away from Giong Nan where General Trinh Minh The's troops were stationed) a messenger from the Viet Minh Government came to him and told him that he (Mr. Huong) had been nominated Senator, and invited him to return to Tay-Ninh to proceed from there to Hanoi to take office. However, Mr. Huong refused.

On June 25, 1954 Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem returned to Viet Nam with the mission to form a government, after the restitution of national sovereignty by the French. On July 4, 1954 Mr. Huong and his friends were invited to join the Cabinet, but all of them declined.

By mid July 1954, he was invited to be the Government Delegate for South Viet Nam. Again, Mr. Huong declined.

In October of that same year, he accepted the mayorship of Saigon - Cholon, but resigned five months later on account of political dissension with Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem.

In June, 1956 he served as the Secretary General of the Vietnamese Red Cross of which he had been an active member since 1952.

Following the November 11, 1960 coup, Mr. Huong and some of his friends were imprisoned for five months and then released on parole. On July 12, 1963 he was cleared by the Military Tribunal and was freed.

In January 1964 he accepted to join the Council of Notables and was elected chairman of the political committee. Later, he served as the Mayor of Saigon and Prime Minister.

On January 27, 1965 his government was overthrown by the Armed Forces Council.

On February 3, 1965 he took refuge for one week at the residence of the British Ambassador.

On February 9, 1965, at the invitation of the Armed Forces Council Mr. Huong retired to Vung Tau and stayed there until July 8, 1967.

In September 1967, Mr. Huong was a presidential candidate but was defeated. Later, President NGUYEN VAN THIEU invited him to form a Cabinet and Mr. Huong served as the Prime Minister from May 25, 1968 until September 1, 1969. Mr. Huong was then invited by the President of the Republic to serve as his advisor. He held that position from November 24, 1969 until November 30, 1970.

Mr. Huong was elected Senator at the partial election of the Senate in October 1970. On December 31, 1970 he was nominated Judge of the Special Court.

Mr. Huong has the reputation of a very honest man who used to ride a bicycle to go to work when he was the mayor of Saigon.

Mr. Huong has only one son left, Tran Van Dinh.

Mr. Tran Van Huong is a politician and a poet. He has published Lao Trung Lanh Van (poems written in a cold cell) and Bo Hoa Cui Mua (The season's last bouquet). Mr. Huong has also annotated a classical opera "Kim Thach Ky Duyen" (the strange destiny of Kim and Thach) by Bui Huu Nghia.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RVN

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF

President NGUYEN - VAN - THIEU

IN THE 3 NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1967 - 1971

OBJECTIVE 1: TO SOLVE THE WAR

I. MILITARY FIELD

- Number of NVN Communist infiltrators and SVN Communists killed (up to June 30, 1971): 607,357
- Number of weapons seized: 241,469
- Military operation into Cambodia in May 1970
- Lam Son 719 operation into Laos in February 1971
- Mopping up operation in the U-Minh sanctuary

II. PACIFICATION FIELD

1. Up to the end September 1971

- Number of city wards and hamlets under control : 11,856
(i.e. 98.9%)
- Number of people under control : 18,603,000
(i.e. 99.7%)

2. People's Self-Defense Force (up to July 31, 1971)

- Organized membership : 4,405,133
 - . Combat members : 1,387,670
 - . Support members : 635,231
- Weapons distributed : 588,269

3. National Police

- Number of police stations in villages: 2,103
(in 2,162 villages under control)

4. Protection of people from terrorism

- Number of Communist infrastructure killed : 40,994
- Number of Communist infrastructure who have rallied to the Government: . . 20,778

5. Open Arms program:

- Number of returnees : 111,061
- Weapons handed over by the returnees: 7,588

OBJECTIVE 2 : TO BUILD DEMOCRACY

I. ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION :

- Law No. 1/69 of Jan. 1, 1969 abolished the Government Delegates.
- Decree No. 045-SL-NV of 4-1-69 enlarges the membership and authority of the Village Administrative Councils and Hamlet Administrative Committees.
- Decree No. 130-SL-NV of 10-19-70 reorganizes the provincial and district administration.
- Decree No. 128-SL-NV of 10-14-70 increases the authority of the municipal, provincial and town councils.
- A bill providing for the organization and operation of Local Administration.

II. ORGANIZATION OF ELECTIONS AND TRAINING OF OFFICIALS

- Up to July 15, 71, there were 2,106 villages and 10,410 hamlets with elected officials, i. e. 97 o/o and 98 o/o of Villages and Hamlets in the entire country.
- Elections of municipal, provincial and city councils was held on June 28, 1970.
- Elections of the Senate and Lower House as well as the election of the President and Vice-President of the Republic were held as prescribed by the Constitution.
- 160,820 officials underwent training.

III. ORGANIZATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

- All agencies prescribed by the Constitution were organized in time.

IV. OBSERVANCE AND PROTECTION OF BASIC RIGHTS OF FREEDOM

- Freedom of education: compulsory and free primary education. Status for the Community Universities.
- Freedom of speech, press and printed materials: Law 9/69 prescribed a very liberal press statute and the establishment of the Press Council.
- Freedom of association: statute for political parties.
- Freedom to found professional union and to have strikes.

OBJECTIVE 3 : TO IMPROVE THE SOCIETY

I. ECONOMY - FINANCE

- Inflation halted
- Supply system improved
- Large scale program of assistance to the Invalids, War orphans and War widows (Law No. 3/70)
- Large scale plan to develop agriculture, fishery, animal husbandry.

II. PEASANTS TURNED OWNERS : THE LAND TO THE TILLER

- Surface of land distributed to peasants in 1968 : 32,501 ha
- " " " " 1969 : 92,369 ha
- " " " " 1970 : 310,515 ha
- " " " " to May 1971 : 177,419 ha
- To date 441,680 peasants were distributed 763,609 ha of land, in the program to distribute 1,000,000 ha of land.
- The program to distribute 1 Million hectares to 800,000 peasants will be completed by the end of 1972.

III. INCREASE OF PRODUCTION :

- Surface cultivated with Miracle Rice : 750,000 ha
- Rice production : 1,800,000 tons
- Government loans to peasants and fishermen : 22.613 billion piasters

IV. CULTURAL, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT :

- 5,848,600 people received aid and rehabilitated.
- 1,175,569 war victims resettled.
- 7,800 housing units for war invalids were completed at the cost of 4.4 billion piasters.
- Development of education (schools, scholarship) and medical installations (hospitals, hospital beds)
- Expansion of roads, airports, public utilities.

PEACE INITIATIVES
of
PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU

1. We are ready to take any peace initiatives provided they can guarantee the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of the Republic of Viet Nam with Independence, Freedom and Democracy. We are also ready to open the door for Peace by directly proposing to the authorities in North Viet Nam to sit down at the conference table in order to find ways to end the war. We only ask the leaders of North Viet Nam to withdraw their troops and end their subversion in South Viet Nam.

(Message on the Inauguration)
October 31, 1967

2. We will maintain our platform for Peace as stated at the Manila Summit Meeting on October 25, 1966 :
 - 1- The Communist aggression under any form must end.
 - 2- The territorial sovereignty of the Republic of Viet Nam must be respected.
 - 3- The reunification of Viet Nam will be determined through the free choice of all the people of Viet Nam.
 - 4- The Republic of Viet Nam advocates the National Solidarity policy to reconcile all elements of the society in the framework of the Constitution.
 - 5- The Allied troops will be requested to withdraw after the military and subversive forces of the Communists end their infiltration into SVN and withdraw out of SVN.
 - 6- The Vietnamese people ask that there should be efficient international guarantees for the points mentioned above.

(Message to the National Assembly)
January 25, 1968

3- To bring an early end to the war in justice and freedom, the Republic of Viet Nam agrees with the partial cessation of bombing over the territory of North Viet Nam.

(Communiqué on the Cessation of Bombing
over North Viet Nam)

April 4, 1968

4- The Government of the Republic of Viet Nam will do anything to help soon bring back Peace. The Government of the Republic of Viet Nam agrees to the total cessation of bombing over North Viet Nam in order to lead to Peace.

(Message to the National Assembly)

November 2, 1968

5- The Government of the Republic of Viet Nam accepts a two-side peace talks between the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam and the North Vietnamese Communists, with one unique delegation on each side. There can be representatives of the auxiliary forces in each delegation.

(Statement of November 8, 1968)

6- We are ready to hold separate and private talks with the so-called National Liberation Front.

(Statement to some foreign press)

Independence Palace March 25, 1969

7 - In our relentless efforts to seek a constructive settlement in order to solve the war, we advance the following 6 basic points which are logical and solid bases for the restoration of Peace in Viet Nam :

- 1- The Communists must end their aggression.
- 2- The Communists must withdraw all the troops and cadres of North Viet Nam as well as those of their auxiliary forces out of the territory of the Republic of Viet Nam.
- 3- The North Vietnamese Communists should not violate the territory of the neighboring countries of the Republic of Viet Nam and use those territories as bases and assembling areas to wage aggression against the Republic of Viet Nam.
- 4- The Republic of Viet Nam advocates the policy of National Reconciliation and National Solidarity.
- 5- The reunification of the two zones will be determined through the free choice of all the people by democratic processes.
- 6- There should be an efficient international control system and reliable international guarantees in order to stop all efforts of the Communists to wage aggression again.

(Message to the National Assembly)

April 7, 1969

8- We are ready to negotiate anything with the Communists, if they have the goodwill.

(Statement at the Press Conference
following the Midway Summit Meeting
Saigon June 9, 1969)

9 - We propose free elections based on the following basis to speed up the negotiations for the restoration of Peace :

- all the political forces, including the so-called NLF can participate in the elections.
- an international body will supervise the election.
- the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam will abide by the results of the election.

(Message to the Nation)

July 11, 1969

10 - The Government of the Republic of Viet Nam asks the leaders of North Viet Nam to have direct and serious talks on the reunification of the country through national elections in both zones.

(Statement on National Shame Day)

July 20, 1969

11 - We reiterate our previous peace initiatives, and we are also ready to discuss any subject with the other side, including a cease-fire, provided the other side truly wants to end the war by serious negotiations.

(Message to the National Assembly)

October 6, 1969

12 - To solve the war, we make the following proposals :

- 1 - an in-place cease-fire over the entire territory of Indochina.
- 2 - an expanded conference.
- 3 - a timetable for the withdrawal of the external forces on both sides.

4- the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoners of war of both sides.

5- organization of free elections with adequate guarantees.

(Statement of the Government
of the Republic of Viet Nam)

October 8, 1970

The above-mentioned peace initiatives have shown the maximum goodwill of the Republic of Viet Nam in finding ways to end the war and restore peace. They are reiterated by the Delegation of the Republic of Viet Nam at each session of the Paris Peace Talks, but the Communists still stubbornly refuse to hold discussions.

(Statement to the National Assembly)
July 30, 1968

11 - We reiterate our previous peace initiatives, and we are also ready to discuss any subject with the other side, including a cease-fire, provided the other side truly wants to end the war by serious negotiations.

(Message to the National Assembly)
October 8, 1968

12 - To solve the war, we make the following proposals:
1 - an in-place cease-fire over the entire territory of Indochina;
2 - an expanded conference;
3 - a timetable for the withdrawal of the external forces on both sides.

President NGUYỄN-VĂN-THIỆU

The Man and His Thoughts



* I solemnly swear before the Nation to
protect the Fatherland, respect the
Constitution, serve the interests of the
Nation and people, and fulfill my duties
as President of the Republic of Viet Nam



" I Am Determined To Bring Back Social Justice
and give to the poor a middle class living
Through the Land-to-the-Tiller Policy"



* Today, the Day of the Promulgation of the
Land-to-the-Tiller Law is the Happiest Day
of My Life.

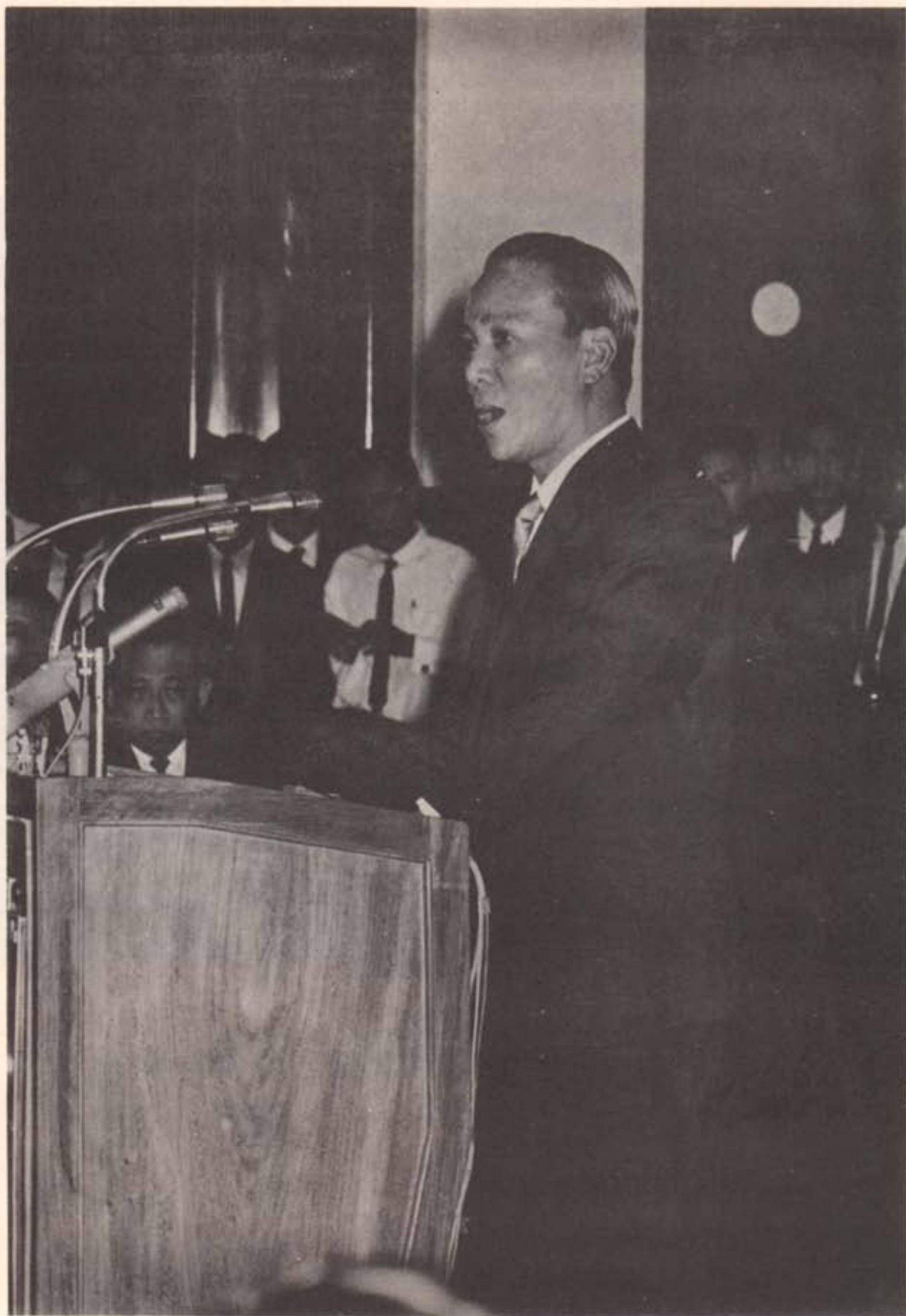


"Your Worries Are My Worries, and Your Joy is also My Joy"



*** We Will Never**

- Concede Any Land To The Communists
- Have a Coalition With The Communists
- Have Neutrality the Way the Communists Want
- Let the Communists Operate Freely in South Viet Nam*



"To bring an early end to the war we always
maintain the door for Peace open and we
are ready to discuss with the other side
anything anywhere"

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"I am determined to bring back to the
Fatherland Peace in Freedom and
Prosperity"



"I promise to take all necessary actions to satisfy
the urgent needs of the war invalids and widows"



"We can be proud with the world that the Combatants of the Republic of Viet-Nam are the Combatants of Peace and for the Peace of the Progressive Mankind, and are fighting for Mankind to progress"



"I am determined to Lead the Country in a Profound
Economic and Social Revolution"

EDITED BY THE
PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Saigon — *October* 1971