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October 25, 1963

Successor Heads of Government

Aside from a military junta, the civilian head of government in Viet-Nam to succeed Diem would have to come from the following list:

1. Nguyen Ngoc Tho, now Vice President.
A southerner and a Buddhist.
2. Tran Quoc Buu, now President of the Vietnamese Confederation of Christian Workers (the only important private organization in the country).
Buddhist from central Viet-Nam (Binh Dinh Province)
3. Tran Van Chuong, ex-Ambassador to the United States.
A southerner and a Confucianist.
4. Tran Van Lam, Ambassador to Australia.
A southerner.
5. Nguyen Huu Chau, ex-Secretary of State for the Presidency. Now in exile in France.
A southerner.
- ~~6. Bui Van Thinh, ex-Ambassador to Japan and now in U.S.~~
7. Nguyen Dinh Thuan, Secretary of State for the Presidency. Able, but has alienated large number of Vietnamese and is probably not acceptable to the generals. A northerner.
8. Tran Ngoc Lien, Director-General of Agricultural Credit and Cooperatives. From central Viet-Nam.
9. Tri Quang, Buddhist leader. However, his future politics are not certain, and choice of him as religious leader might evoke conflict with Catholics.
10. Nguyen Tran, ex-Province Chief who broke with Diem.
A Catholic.

Prominent oppositionist like Dr. Phan Quang Dan, Pham Khac Suu and Phan Huy Quat not listed because of doubt that they could set up a harmonious government.

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