

Tranh Danh TUYEN

*Minister of Materials
Alternate Member, Lao Dong Party Central Committee
Chief of the Industrial Board of the Premier's Office
Vice-President, Vietnam General Federation of
Trade Unions
President of the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association
Member of the General Council of WFTU
Vice-Chairman of the Vietnam Committee
for Afro-Asian People's Solidarity*

One of North Vietnam's genuine industrial experts, Tuyen is responsible for the organisation and planning of industrial labour in the country. He is well known in international circles as an expert in Communist trade union organisation and control.

Tranh Danh Tuyen was born in Bac Giang Province, North Vietnam, in 1912, and his parents were poor peasants. He joined Ho Chi Minh's Indochinese Communist Party in 1937 when he was working as a labourer on the railways, and is believed to have been responsible for many rail strikes. He continued his support for the Communists within his trade union until 1946, when the Communists formed their first government in North Vietnam, and Tuyen became Secretary of the Hanoi City Party Committee. He was elected to the National Assembly, and helped to organise the General Federation of Trade Unions, of which he in time became Secretary-General. In 1955 he was elected a member of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), a Communist front organisation. He was elected an alternate member of the Lao Dong Party Central Committee in 1960. By 1961 he was both Vice-President and Secretary-General of the Vietnam General Federation of Trade Unions, and he spoke at the Fifth Congress of WFTU in Moscow in that year. He was elected to the National Assembly Reunification Committee two years later, and in the succeeding years continued in the organisation of industrial labour. His services were recognised in July, 1968, by his appointment as Chief of the Industrial Board of the Premier's Office, and in the same year he was elected President of the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association.

Tuyen has led many trade union and labour delegations abroad, and has been a regular attender of WFTU conferences. His travels have taken him to Bulgaria, USSR and China (1961); Hungary and Albania (1964); North Korea and Cuba (1965); East Germany (1969) and Chile (1970). Although he was once a key figure in leading workers in strikes for improvements in industrial relations, his main task under the Communists is to ensure that there can be no strikes, and that industrial labourers are kept fully in line with party policies and laws.

In December, 1969, he was appointed Minister of Materials, a ministry replacing the former General Department of Materials.

Hoang Quoc VIET

*President of the Supreme People's Control Organ
President of North Vietnam's Federation of Trade Unions
Member of the Lao Dong Party Central Committee
Chairman of the Vietnam Solidarity Bureau
Chairman of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association*

Hoang Quoc Viet is one of the most influential members of the Communist leadership. An efficient combination of party and trade union organiser he is noted as an advocate of forward policies with a distinctly pro-Chinese bias.

His background is impeccably "proletarian" and revolutionary. Born in the Bac Ninh Province of North Vietnam in 1905, the son of a worker, he studied at the Haiphong Technical College and was expelled for his part in a students' strike. After working for some time as a fitter and later as a seaman plying between Saigon and Marseilles, he joined Ho Chi Minh's Revolutionary Youth League in 1928, and thereafter devoted all his energies to the Communist cause. His particular field was South Vietnam where he conducted propaganda among the Saigon sailors and port workers.



When the Indochinese Communist Party (PCI) was founded in 1930, he was among the first to join it. Soon after, he was arrested and sentenced to deportation to the island of Poulo Condore. In 1936 he was released and for the next three years was active as a journalist in Hanoi, assisting Truong Chinh (the chief ideologist of the Viet Minh) in the production of Communist newspapers and publications. At the same time he took a prominent part in building up the PCI organisation and broadening its base. In 1939, when the PCI was declared illegal, he fled with other Communist leaders to Kwangsi,

Southern China.

In 1941, he was instrumental in the creation in Kwangsi of the Viet Minh front, rising rapidly in the party's hierarchy. After its seizure of power in August, 1945, he was sent to South Vietnam as political "overlord" with the difficult task of reorganising the regional party system. In 1946, he was appointed Governor of Central Vietnam. With the steady deterioration in Franco-Viet Minh relations he also became a member of the eight-man "National Resistance Council" (Tong Bo), a body co-ordinating political and military resistance which included such outstanding die-hards as Truong Chinh and General Vo Nguyen Giap. In addition, he was made Inspector-General of the Viet Minh's Armed Forces.

The Indochina War, 1946-54, showed him as the firm exponent of intransigence and Communist orthodoxy in both the political and military spheres. In the crucial days of December, 1946, which preceded the outbreak of hostilities

he sided with the extremists in the party opting for all-out war against the French. In the same month he joined the party leadership in the jungle of North Vietnam where the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) was set up, and was Secretary-General of the Viet Minh League from then until 1951.

Thereafter he was constantly engaged in organisational tasks often in close association with Truong Chinh. Moreover he strongly advocated closer collaboration at all levels between the Viet Minh and China. In 1950, he was appointed Chairman of the Confederation of Labour and in the same year his name appeared among the Foundation Members of the Sino-Vietnam Friendship Association, and among the membership of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Committee for the Defence of World Peace,

In 1951, he was largely responsible together with Truong Chinh for the merger of the Viet Minh with the "National People's Front" (Lien Viet), and—more significant still—for an important political reorganisation from which the Communists emerged as the Lao Dong, or Workers', Party of Vietnam. The move further strengthened Communist control of the Nationalist and non-Communist Parties in the DRV. It resulted also in Hoang Quoc Viet becoming a member of the Lao Dong Party Central Committee, a member of its Politburo, and a Vice-President of the Lien Viet.

In 1955, Viet became a member of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front, to which he was re-elected in 1961. In 1955 he also became a member of the Executive Committees of the [North] Vietnam-Soviet and Vietnam-China Friendship Associations. Viet was first made a member of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions in 1953. He is a talented agitator and propagandist and attended Labour Congresses in, or led Vietnamese delegations to, China many times, the USSR and Poland in 1956, and Bandung, Indonesia, in 1961.

Hoang Quoc Viet is a typical product of the complex world of "Inner Communism". Like many of his colleagues he too used an alias—Ha Ba Cang. In 1960 he was elected Chairman of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, and re-elected to the Lao Dong Party Central Committee, although not to its Politburo. In 1961 he was re-elected as head of North Vietnam's Trade Union Organisation, from which position he completely overshadows the Minister of Labour and exercises *de facto* control over the régime's vast labour force. His outlook is well suited to the Chinese type of "militant" approach to Communist dogma and world affairs.

In July, 1962, he attended the Moscow Peace Conference as a member of the DRV delegation. In September he led a delegation of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association to attend the celebrations in Peking of China's National Day. He was elected Chairman of the [North] Vietnam-China Friendship Association in April, 1963. In January, 1965, he became Chairman of the Vietnam Solidarity Bureau, set up in Hanoi to help implement resolutions passed by the "International Conference for Solidarity with the People of Vietnam" in Hanoi the previous November. In March, 1965, he led the North Vietnamese Fatherland Front delegation to the Indo-Chinese People's Conference in Phnom Penh. Besides being Chairman of the Vietnam-China Friend-

ship Association he appears to have some responsibility for controlling North Vietnam's Overseas Chinese population. He addressed a conference of Chinese residents in November, 1968, and emphasised the need for loyalty to North Vietnam before loyalty to China. Viet led a trade union delegation to Italy in December, 1968, and headed a Fatherland Front delegation in talks with a delegation of the NFLSV in Hanoi in March, 1969.

In October, 1969, he led a trade union delegation to East Germany and thence to Hungary for the Seventh Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), where he was elected to the Federation's Standing Committee. In December, 1969, he reported to the National Assembly Standing Committee on the 1969 achievements and 1970 tasks of the People's Supreme Control Organ. In April, 1970, Viet was a member of the North Vietnamese delegation to the Indochinese summit conference called by Prince Sihanouk and believed to have been held in South China. He led a delegation to the World Conference of Trade Unions in Paris in July, 1970. In March, 1971, he was re-elected to the post of Chief Procurator of the People's Supreme Procurate, and in February, 1972, he was Hanoi's delegate to the Versailles meeting on Indochina organised by the Stockholm Conference on Vietnam. Subsequently he led a delegation to the 15th Soviet Trade Union Congress, also visiting Poland and East Germany.

Nguyen Van VINH

*Deputy Chief of Staff of the Vietnam People's Army (VPA)
Alternate Member of Lao Dong Party Central Committee
Chairman of the National Reunification Committee*

Lieutenant-General Vinh heads the National Reunification Commission whose prime object is to promote the overthrow of the South Vietnam Government and the "peaceful" reunification of North and South Vietnam.

Born in 1917 at Nam Truc in the province of Nam Dinh (North Vietnam), he is a specialist in guerrilla warfare. He is believed to have been jailed between 1942 and 1945 for subversive activities against the Japanese, who were then in control of Vietnam although it was nominally administered by the French. Throughout the Indochina War (1946-54), Vinh was active in South Vietnam, where he held senior appointments in the Viet Minh movement. In 1955, he was assigned to Saigon as Head of the North Vietnamese liaison mission attached to the International Control Commission—the truce supervisory body (India, Canada and Poland) set up by the Geneva Conference of 1954 which ended the war in Indochina. In 1956, he was promoted to Brigadier-General and in the same year returned to North Vietnam.

In 1958, Vinh was named head of the Central Personnel Department in the Ministry of Defence, and in addition became a Deputy Minister of Defence, in which post he continued to serve until 1960, when he was made Chairman of the National Reunification Commission. Essentially, the overt activities of this Commission included propaganda at home and abroad and the presentation of the case for "reunification", as envisaged by North Vietnam, in the Communist countries. In 1959, Vinh advanced to Major-General, and in 1960 was elected an alternate member of the Lao Dong Party Central Committee.

In 1964, he was appointed Chairman of the National Reunification Board of the Prime Minister's Office. In April, 1966, he visited a Communist-held area in South Vietnam to address a congress of the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN)—through which North Vietnam controls all military and political operations carried out in the name of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NFLSV) and its military arm, the People's Liberation Armed Forces (PLAF), or the Vietcong.

Vinh is known to be one of the leading members of the COSVN which, in fact, is an offshoot of the Lao Dong Party Central Committee. For some time he has been directing the flow of men and supplies to South Vietnam. On the military side, Vinh probably works directly under Vo Nguyen Giap, Minister of Defence and C-in-C, and gives orders to the six or eight North Vietnamese Generals in command of the main sectors of the front in South Vietnam. In addition, he is a Deputy Chief of Staff of the VPA.

Vinh is a close friend and associate of Giap. He works in close co-operation with Prime Minister Pham Van Dong and the party First Secretary, Le Duan. Like Giap, Vinh, too, is a proponent of what he described in the journal, *Hoc Tap*, of February, 1966, as "the invincible methods of people's war"—the seizure of

power by means of political and military warfare. With Le Duan, he issues directives to the Vietcong High Command on how the war should be fought, objectives to be achieved, targets, priorities, peace negotiations and related matters.

Though a friend of China, Vinh as a realist is more inclined towards the USSR if only because of North Vietnam's dependence on Soviet military and technological aid.



Nguyen XIEN

*Deputy-Director of the National Scientific Research Board
Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National
Assembly
Secretary-General of the Socialist Party
Director of the Vietnam Weather Bureau*

Nguyen Xien is a prominent scientist and militant intellectual who sided with the Viet Minh. Born at Vinh (North Vietnam) in 1907, he completed his studies in France, graduating in engineering. On his return he taught at schools in Hanoi, eventually moving to the university. In 1943, he became one of the three editors of a "progressive" magazine called *Sciences*. In 1945, he helped the Viet Minh's seizure of power, and in 1946 was elected a Deputy to the National Assembly.

Xien is not a narrow specialist but rather a man of wide and varied experience. The Indochina War afforded him fresh opportunities to serve the Viet Minh cause. In 1948, he was named Chairman of its Resistance and Executive Committee for North Vietnam, in which capacity he did much to promote education.



In 1950 he was elected to the Vietnam Committee for the Defence of World Peace, and he helped to establish the [North] Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association, going early in 1954 to the Soviet Union as a member of the first North Vietnamese cultural delegation to be sent there. On the formation of the Fatherland Front in 1955 he was made a member of its Executive Committee, and, in addition, became a Vice-President of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association. In the same year he was appointed Minister of Social Welfare.

His dual rôle of scientist and political leader has proved invaluable to the régime. He became Director of North Vietnam's Meteorological Service, and in 1957 President of the Committee for the International Geophysical Year. In 1958, he was appointed Deputy-Director of the National Scientific Research Board, and in the following year relinquished his post of Minister of Social Welfare on the winding up of this department. In these years he paid visits to Moscow, Prague and China. In 1963, he became President of the newly-founded Association for the Popularisation of Science and Technology, a position he still holds.

In 1960 Xien was elected a Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, and a member of its Planning and Budget Committee. In 1961, he was elected to the Presidium of the Fatherland Front Central Committee. Politically, he ranks as a "Socialist", having been elected Deputy Secretary-General of the Socialist Party in 1947, and Secretary-General in 1956. He is thus the spokesman for the "intellectual" class, organised in an ostensibly

non-Communist party which in practice gives full support to the Lao Dong Party's policies and enactments. He was a member of the National Assembly delegation which paid a friendship visit to Eastern Europe in June, 1970, and in September, 1971, he led a delegation to the Third All-Union Congress of the USSR-Vietnam Friendship Society.

Le Thi XUYEN

*Member of the Standing Committee
of the National Assembly
Vice-President Vietnam Women's Union
Vice-President Vietnam-Cuba Friendship
Association
Vice-Chairman, Vietnam Afro-Asian Solidarity
Committee
Vice-Chairman of the Vietnam Committee
for the Defence of World Peace*

Sometimes known by the alias of "Le Thi Tien" or "Le Thi Xuan", Le Thi Xuyen was at one time one of the most important women in the North Vietnamese hierarchy. However, after 1960 she slipped out of the political scene, although she managed to retain some influence on the women's movement in North Vietnam.

Nothing is known of Mme. Xuyen's background, and she was first noticed on her appointment to a Vice-Presidency of the Vietnam Women's Union in 1948. In 1950 she was among the founders of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association. She was also a Vice-President of the Lien Viet, the Communist-controlled "front" which was the predecessor of the present Fatherland Front in North Vietnam. In 1955 she was elected to the Standing Committee of the North Vietnamese National Assembly, and became Vice-President of the Vietnam Peace Committee, which is affiliated to the Communist controlled World Council of Peace (WCP). She was also running the Hanoi City branch of the Women's Union. During the next few years she reached the high point in her career when she was appointed to the Central Committee of the Lao Dong (Workers') Party, and to the Central Committee of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association. In 1956 she visited the Soviet Union with a North Vietnamese government delegation.

In 1960, the first signs of her loss of favour came when she was not re-elected to the Lao Dong Central Committee, and it was later revealed that she had also lost her position in the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association, although she led a delegation of the Association to the Soviet Union in July, 1971. She made only rare appearances after 1960, and only in connexion with the Vietnam Women's Union. She has not since been mentioned as a member of the Peace Committee either.

However, in 1965, Mme. Xuyen seems to have consolidated her position to some extent, and with the founding of a Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association, she was appointed one of the Vice-Presidents. She is still a Vice-President of the Women's Union, and led a delegation on a tour of India and Pakistan in November, 1968. She was also recently described as belonging to the Central Committee of the Fatherland Front, and has contributed many articles on the rôle of women in the Vietnam war to the North Vietnamese Press.

It therefore appears that while the Hanoi authorities have been careful to relieve her of all political influence, her usefulness as an example of equality in public affairs has saved her from complete eclipse.

Nghiem Xuan YEM

*Vice-Chairman of the Central Agricultural Commission
Member of the Standing Committee of the National
Assembly
Secretary-General of the Democratic Party*

Yem has qualities which make him characteristic of the men whom the Lao Dong Party employs to lend an air of "democracy" to its totalitarian content. Ostensibly a non-Communist he is a firm supporter of the Communist régime. He has the additional advantage of training as an agricultural engineer. Outwardly he controls the most vital sector of North Vietnam's economy—and more often than not the least profitable.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) Press reports say that Yem was born in Ho Dong Province in 1913, the son of a "noble Confucian family". He graduated in agricultural engineering from Hanoi University and joined the Viet Minh in 1944—the most formative period in the history of the movement. During the Indochina War he made his mark as a specialist in agricultural affairs. At the end of 1946 he was entrusted with responsibility for agricultural production in the Viet Minh Zone No. 1 in North Vietnam, and in 1947 became Under-Secretary for Agriculture.

In the years following he devoted increasing attention to his chosen field and was appointed Minister of Agriculture in 1953. In 1955, he was included in the party and government delegation led by Ho Chi Minh which visited Moscow and Peking, ostensibly on a goodwill tour, in fact with the object of obtaining Communist aid to ward off disaster in North Vietnam—then in the midst of an acute economic crisis.

In December, 1956, Yem became Joint Vice-Chairman of the new Central Committee for Agrarian Reform, a body set up to correct the calamitous "mistakes" of the party's Land Reform in the previous years for which Truong Chinh, the Secretary-General of the Lao Dong Party, was made the scapegoat. In 1957, Yem led a delegation to the congress of the East German "Democratic Party". In 1958, he was appointed a permanent member of the National Scientific Research Commission. In 1959, he visited China. In 1960, he was confirmed in his various party and government posts and, in addition, promoted member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly. In 1963, he gave up the Ministry of Agriculture and became Minister of State Farms. In 1964, he was given the additional post of Head of the Department of Agricultural Science of the National Scientific Research Commission. In July, 1968, he led a North Vietnamese delegation to Cuba. He participated in talks with a delegation of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam in Hanoi in March, 1969.

Yem is no star performer on North Vietnam's political stage. But he is of considerable value to a régime where technical experts are still at a premium. He has played his part in the "transformation" of agriculture as a result of which 90 per cent of the arable land is now worked as "agricultural co-operatives"

—orthodox Communist collective farming. Since 1958, moreover, he has been Secretary-General of the Vietnam Democratic Party, one of the puppet parties ostensibly representing the emasculated middle class. He is also a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Fatherland Front. His approach to agriculture appears to be impeccably orthodox, showing as much interest in the organisation of labour and party direction of agriculture as in actual farming techniques.

Yem led a Fatherland Front delegation to Hungary in August, 1970, and was a member of the party and government delegation to Mongolia in July, 1971. In April, 1971, he relinquished his post as Minister of State Farms and became Vice-Chairman of the new Central Agricultural Commission.