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.


6. Bui Van Thin, 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.


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.