



MRS. NHU AND LE THUI IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1963

Crash Kills Mrs. Nhu's Daughter

Paris

Ngo Dinh Le Thui, the lovely shy daughter of Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu, once South Vietnam's First Lady, was fatally injured yesterday when her small car collided with two trucks. She was 22.

Le Thui, a law student here, was driving toward Paris alone when the accident occurred at an intersection in the town of Massy, south of the city. She died in Longjumeau Hospital.

Le Thui's bachelor uncle, Ngo Dinh Diem, was president of South Vietnam and was killed with her father, Diem's closest political associate, in a coup November 1, 1963.

VISIT

Mrs. Nhu and her daughter were in Los Angeles at the time on a controversial visit to the United States. Fiery Mrs. Nhu, her visit snubbed

by official Washington, angrily blamed the United States for the coup and assassination.

Mrs. Nhu never returned to South Vietnam and has been living in seclusion in a remote villa she owns at Vitinia, Italy, 20 miles southwest of Rome.

Aspokesman for Mrs. Nhu said in Rome that she left yesterday for Paris after learning of her daughter's death.

The spokesman said another brother of the late South Vietnamese President, Roman Catholic Archbishop Pierre Martin Ngo Dinh Thuc, also had been told of Le Thui's death and was in mourning.

COLLISION

Police could give no explanation for the accident. They said the girl's car apparently swerved and collided succes-

sively with two trucks headed in the opposite direction.

Le Thui and her mother had gone to the U.S. for a series of public appearances at a time of heated controversy over Diem's policies toward the Buddhists. The Buddhists accused the Roman Catholic president of persecution, and several monks publicly burned themselves to death in protest. Their political demonstrations dominated the political scene just before the coup.

After their arrival in New York October 7, Mrs. Nhu and Le Thui almost immediately ran into demonstrations, heckling and hostile questions. Their stops, besides New York and Los Angeles, included Chicago and San Francisco.

In an interview shortly before the coup took the life of her father and uncle, Le Thui said she hoped to be able to work for the betterment of

her country but hated politics.

"The intrigue and soiled atmosphere of politics is disgusting to me," she said.

She also said she supported the strict moral principles of her mother, who was the chief advocate of South Vietnam's ban on dancing. It has since been repealed.

"I have never danced in my life," Le Thui said.

Le Thui had two younger brothers and a younger sister.

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