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## Ailing Woman Critic of Regime Held in Saigon Police Hospital

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Sept. 26—Mrs. Ngo Ba Thanh, an anti-Government and anti-war intellectual, is again being held by the police over the protests of her lawyers and other Vietnamese liberals who oppose the one-man presidential elections next month.

Mrs. Thanh, a 40-year-old key figure in several peace groups here, is in a police hospital, suffering from asthmatic attacks.

Mrs. Thanh and Miss Tran Thi Lan, 22 years old, who works with her, were arrested on Sept. 18. No charges have been made.

Mrs. Thanh, who had just been released from prison two days earlier, was present with Miss Lan at a demonstration against President Nguyen Van Thieu in front of the National Assembly. The demonstration was dispersed by tear gas and the women were the only ones detained.

### Her Husband Breaks In

Although Mrs. Thanh is not allowed visitors, her husband and a lawyer managed yesterday to break into her room in the municipal hospital here for policemen and their dependents. The two men were accompanied by an American correspondent.

Police officials say that Mrs. Thanh is not imprisoned but is only being detained. Her lawyer, Nguyen Long, says she was put in a police hospital, which does not take prisoners or detainees, to avoid giving



Mrs. Ngo Ba Thanh

the impression that she is a prisoner.

A police doctor allowed the visitors to stay briefly. He said prolonged exposure to the tear gas might have aggravated her condition. Mrs. Thanh, who is staying in the same room with Miss Lan, appeared pallid; Miss Lan said she has been nauseated frequently and had vomited blood.

Mrs. Thanh was last arrested on Aug. 17 on charges of assault, and released temporarily on Sept. 16. No trial date was set. Miss Lan said Mrs. Thanh was treated decently and was given oxygen when breathing became difficult.