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Plot on Rising Leaders Seen in Saigon Killings

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Nov. 10—The assassination of Prof. Nguyen Van Bong, the head of a pro-government political movement, was regarded by diplomatic and political sources today as part of the enemy's continuing attempt to wipe out possible leaders of future anti-Communist movements in Saigon. Mr. Bong, who was 42 years old, was killed when a terrorist bomb blew up his car as he drove away from his office shortly after noon today. Two passengers were also killed.

Mr. Bong, a member of the faculty of the National Institute of Administration, was the founder and leader of the Progressivist Nationalist Party, which he described as "the

loyal opposition" and which United States Embassy officials said was "moderate opposition."

He had been widely mentioned in South-Vietnamese circles as a possible successor to Premier Tran Thien Khiem, but American officials who knew him well said today that he could possibly have become President of South Vietnam.

The United States Embassy's political section thought highly of Mr. Bong, who spoke excellent English and who was known to support progressive domestic programs widely favored by the Americans. One embassy official described his party as "the most vital political party in Vietnam." Sixteen of its members were elected to the Lower House last August.

Mr. Bong said that by "loyal opposition" he meant that the party supported President Thieu on the war against the Communists, but felt free to differ with him on domestic issues.

The party's secretary general, Prof. Nguyen Ngoc Huy, is certain to succeed Mr. Bong. Mr. Huy is a titular member of the Saigon delegation to the Paris talks, but does not attend the sessions.

One American political officer said today, that weakening the Progressivist Nationalist Party may have been the Communists' primary object in killing Mr. Bong. But a Vietnamese politician said that the murder may "cut both ways" by strengthening the party's support for President Thieu.