

## 2 Parts of Vietnam Officially Reunited; Leadership Chosen

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By The Associated Press

BANGKOK, THAILAND, July 2—North and South Vietnam were officially reunited today after more than 20 years of war, and Hanoi was declared the capital. The Hanoi radio said that leaders of the new Socialist Republic of Vietnam had been elected in the National Assembly by secret ballot.

The radio, monitored here, said that an "explosion of applause" had greeted the announcement in the 492-member Assembly.

The former North Vietnamese flag, anthem and emblem were approved as symbols of the country.

"A new page of Vietnamese history has been turned," the broadcast said. "At this moment, 8:30 A.M. [9:30 P.M. Thursday New York Time] on July 2, 1976, the Vietnamese nation is officially considered as a unified country from Cao Lang to Cao Mau."

Cao Lang is the northernmost point of what was North Vietnam, and Cao Mau is the southernmost peninsula of the former South Vietnam.

Vietnam was divided by the

Continued on Page 5, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

1954 Geneva Agreement that followed the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu. The last Americans were withdrawn from the South on April 30, 1975, following the Communist victory over the Saigon forces supported by the United States.

The Hanoi broadcast did not say how the decision on reunification was actually made.

The formal reunification announcement was something of an anticlimax, since Hanoi and Saigon have during the last year, described Vietnam as one country. But the two halves maintained separate government machineries and leaders until today.

As many Western observers had expected, all but one high Government office went to North Vietnamese leaders rather than to those who had fought in the South.

The exception was Dr. Nguyen Huu Tho, former president of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, who will be one of two Vice Presidents. The other will be Nguyen Luong Bang, North Vietnam's vice president since 1969.

The largely ceremonial post of President went to 88-year-old Ton Duc Thang formerly North Vietnam's head of state. Pham Van Dong, a skilled administrator and diplomat retained his title of Prime Minister.

Truong Chinh, a hard-liner who is said to be pro-Chinese, will be chairman of the standing committee of the Assembly.

There was no initial indication that changes would occur



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Hanoi became capital of reunified Vietnam.

in the highest ranks of Vietnam's Communist Party, the Lao Dong, where all major decisions are made.

Most observers say that the top five men in the party's 11-man politburo are First Secretary Le Duan, Mr. Chinh, Prime Minister Dong, Phan Hung, a southerner, and Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Vo Giap, the general who defeated the French at Dien Bien Phu.

The top leadership is composed mostly of men in their late 60's. Almost all helped found the Communist Party, fought the Japanese and the French and directed the struggle against the United States and the Saigon governments it backed.

Reliable sources said that al-

though Hanoi's leadership might have had its internal disputes over the years, it had had 30 years of continuity and none of the purges that have marked Soviet and Chinese Communism.

The following short biographies of some of the top officials elected today were compiled from authoritative sources.

#### Ho Chi Minh's Successor

President Thang has held that position in North Vietnam since the death of Vietnam's revolutionary leader, Ho Chi Minh, in 1969. At 88, he is not considered a significant figure and is not a member of the party Politburo.

His anti-French activities as a leader of student strikes forced him into exile. He returned to Vietnam in 1927 and enrolled in the Revolutionary Youth League. Mr. Thang later spent 15 years in jail for complicity in murder and sedition. He was one of the more extremist members of North Vietnam's Communist Party.

Prime Minister Dong has held that post in North Vietnam since 1950 and is considered the No. 3 man in the party's power structure.

In his late 60's, Mr. Dong is known as a sophisticated but

uncompromising bargainer, skilled in international diplomacy. He is thought to lean closer to Moscow than to Peking.

Like his colleagues, he entered revolutionary politics early in life and was sentenced by the French to six years' hard labor in 1929. A favorite of Ho Chi Minh, he took part in a number of key international meetings, including the 1954 Geneva Conference.

#### Hard-Line Ideologist

Mr. Chinh, 59, has been chairman of the National Assembly's standing committee for 16 years. He is known as a hard-line, pro-Chinese Communist and is the chief ideologist of the leadership.

During the war against the French, he rose quickly but suffered a brief eclipse when he was accused of being tougher than the party line directed in 1956. He was generally thought to be responsible for mass executions that accompanied the new regime's efforts at land reform in North Vietnam.

Vice President Bang, 72, has held that post in North Vietnam since 1969 and has been on the Central Committee of the party since 1945.

Another veteran of French jails, his early specialty was

labor agitation. He has held key party and government posts and was once ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Vice President Tho, the lone southerner in the group, was a Saigon lawyer and agitator against the French in the 1950's and during the early United States involvement in his country.

After periods in prison and under house arrest, he fled into the countryside in 1962 and helped found South Vietnam's National Liberation Front. He was chosen to head the front's Central Committee in 1962 and its Presidium two years later.

#### Buddhists Reported Arrested

PARIS, July 2 (AP)—The entire leadership of the Hoa Hao Buddhist sect and tens of thousands of followers have been arrested in Vietnam, the daughter of its leader said today.

Luong Trong Tuong Rosalie said in a letter to French newspapers that her 72-year-old father has been in Saigon's Chi Hoa prison since the beginning of July 1975.

She appealed for the release of her father, Luong Trong Tuong, as well as of her husband, her brother and her uncle, who she said also were in the prison.