

# Viet Peace Candidate Is Released

## Saigon

Truong Dinh Dzu, a peace candidate in the 1967 presidential election, was released from jail yesterday after nearly five years as a political prisoner.

The 56-year-old lawyer was reported by his daughter to be sick and weary after returning home from Chi Hoa Prison in Saigon. He remained in seclusion.

The release was viewed as an attempt by President Nguyen Van Thieu to burnish his image before his visit to the U.S. next week.

During the 1967 election campaign, Dzu advocated negotiations with the Viet Cong, arguing that such talks eventually would lead to a type of coalition government in the South.

As a peace candidate with a white dove symbol, Dzu polled a surprising 18 per cent of the vote against Thieu.

Thieu has been criticized heavily over the years, particularly by some members of the U.S. Congress, for keeping political opponents in jail. Dzu's name has been mentioned frequently in this regard.

Early in 1968, Dzu was arrested on a fraudulent check charge and sentenced to a brief prison term and fine. In May of that year, he was brought before a military tribunal on charges of advocating negotiations with the Viet Cong and advocating neutrality.

He was sentenced to five years at hard labor for what the court deemed "an action which has weakened the anti-Communist will of the people and the army."



AP Wirephoto

**TRUONG DINH DZU**  
**He urged negotiations**

This sentence was commuted by a court to four years in 1971. He was eligible for release on May 1, 1972. According to Dzu's wife, Chi Hoa Prison authorities made arrangements for his release and turned him over to the national police command in line with administrative procedure.

Mrs. Dzu said her husband was detained at the national police center on May 1, 1972, then returned to Chi Hoa for "temporary detention." She maintains that police authorities told her that her husband must wait for a decision from Thieu.

About two weeks ago, Mrs. Dzu sent letters to Thieu and several legislative leaders, appealing for her husband's release by pointing out that his term was up and that Thieu's own regime has negotiated with the Viet Cong.

Before his 1967 campaign against Thieu and his eventual imprisonment, Dzu was not extremely well known. Most observers say he has no real political base.

His participation in the political battles expected after U.S. troops withdraw thus remains an open question.

*Associated Press*