

Vietnamese Nationalist Groups

Strongest anti-Communist groups in Viet Nam are Dai Viet Party, the Roman Catholic bishops in Tonkin, and the Cao Dai religious-military sect in Cochin China around Saigon.

Dai Viet (Great Vietnam) - Professionals

intellectuals in Tonkin, including many Catholics; membership several thousand hard core; most able group in Viet Nam, though many members still fence-sitting.

Controls governorship of Tonkin --

Nguyen Huu Tri

Present Defense Ministry -- Phan

Huy Quat

Present Information Ministry --

Le Thang

Catholics -- Number over 1 million --

strongest in Tonkin led by intensely nationalist bishops who exert strong moral and temporal authority over hundreds of parishes. Are not too keen on Bao Dai.

Most prominent bishops:

Le Huu Tu - Tonkin Delta

Pham Ngoc Chi - Tonkin

Ngo Dinh Thuc - Cochin China west of Saigon.

Cao Dai -- Religious sect in Cochin China

north of Saigon. Mixture of Buddhism, Catholicism -- saints include George Washington, Victor Hugo, Jesus Christ. Membership of about 1 million under a "Pope" with strong warlord proclivities.

Supports:

Army of ^{about} 20,000 troops

Open Political party -- Phuc Quoc Hoi --
for legal participation in national
government.

Covert Political Group -- National

Resistance Front -- armed resistance
to national government.

Inducements to fence-sitting:

- Resentment of French control in government
administratin
- Objections to Bao Dai as French puppet and
as too absolute.
- Fear of loss of prestige and reputation in
future as result of being tarred with associa-
tion with French in present governments under
Bao Dai.

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- Fear of Viet Minh military victory.
- Fear of being caught in between in event of French-Viet Minh negotiated settlement.
- Limitations on political activity of potential labor unions, peasant groups, professional associations as result Bao Dai's absolutism and conservatism of French-Vietnamese bureaucrats.

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Note on Bao Dai

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Reported [REDACTED] to be seriously ill with malaria, necessitating frequent trips to cooler climate, intermittent attention to government between bouts of 105° fever, Residence in plateau area of Dalat - i. e. , out of Saigon or Hanoi political centers.