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UMD NEWS SERVICE  
RA 4-8801 Ext 210  
October 15, 1964

DULUTH -- The Hon. Tran Van Dinh, former acting ambassador from Viet Nam to the United States, will speak on "The War in Viet Nam-- Anatomy of a Crisis" at 10:30 a.m. Monday (Oct. 19) in UMD's Kirby Student Center ballroom.

Van Dinh's appearance is the first event sponsored by the UMD Convocations and Lectures Committee during the 1964-65 academic year.

Van Dinh presently serves as Chief Washington Correspondent of the Saigon Post.

An acknowledged expert on American-Asian relations, Van Dinh was selected by Admiral Arleigh Burke, Director of Georgetown University's Center for Strategic Studies, to participate in a forum on "The Defense of Southeast Asia ." Van Dinh was the only foreign correspondent so honored. Other participants in the forum included newspaperwomen Marguerite Higgins, Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Admiral Felix Stump and Walter S. Robertson, former Assistant Secretary of State for the Far East.

Educated at Quoc Hoc College and Hanoi University, Van Dinh joined the guerilla resistance against the Japanese when he was 19. From 1945 to 1947 he was a Brigadier General and Chief-of-Staff (Laos) for the Viet Liberation Armies in Vientiane, helping free his nation from French colonial rule.

He then became a journalist, eventually joining the Vietnamese foreign service as press attache in Thailand. From 1956 to 1960 he was Consul General in Burma. During this time, he also served as an observer at the United Nations in New York and made observation and study tours of Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Israel.

In 1960 Van Dinh achieved cabinet rank, holding the portfolio of Director General of Information. He joined the Vietnamese mission at the United Nations early in 1961 and later that year was named counselor to his nation's embassy in Washington.

Appointed Charge-d'Affaires in 1963, Van Dinh served as acting ambassador following the resignation of Tran Van Chong, father of Madame Nhu.