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The Honorable Tran van Dinh to Present Fourth Jennings Scholar Lecture

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DAYTON, Ohio, December 9, 1968 --- The Honorable Tran van Dinh, former Acting Ambassador of Vietnam to the United States, will present the fourth Jennings Scholar Lecture Friday, December 14, at 9:15 a.m. in the Kennedy Union Ballroom. The lecture is the fourth in a series of eight in a year-long program co-sponsored by the Cleveland-based Martha Holden Jennings Foundation and the School of Education at the University of Dayton.

Mr. van Dinh's lecture is entitled "Impact of American Culture on the Youth of Southeast Asia."

The lecture series is designed for 350 selected outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers in Southwestern Ohio. Similar programs have been conducted at Kent State University, Ohio University and Bowling Green State University. The UD series, under the direction of Mr. M. Byron Morton of the Department of School Administration, is the first in this section of the state.

Tran van Dinh, Washington Bureau Chief for the "Saigon Post", is a professional journalist and diplomat with a unique firsthand knowledge of the political turmoils that have led to American commitments in Southeast Asia.

Born in the Imperial City of Hue, he is the son of a noted Vietnamese scholar who taught him Chinese literature and ideograms. He was educated at Quoc Hoc College and Hanoi University and considers himself, besides a journalist and diplomat, a poet and artist. An accomplished linguist, Mr. van Dinh speaks fluent English, French, Thai, Lao and writes Japanese and Chinese.

In 1942, at the age of 19, Mr. van Dinh joined the guerilla resistance against Japanese occupation forces. During 1945 he was a staff officer with the Vietnamese Liberation Army, and from 1945-47 was a Brigadier General and Chief of Staff--Laos, Viet Liberation Armies in Vientiane (Laos). He became a journalist in 1948, eventually joining the staff of the English-language newspaper "Liberty", in Bangkok, Thailand.

In 1951 Mr. van Dinh became Press Attache for the Vietnamese embassy in Bangkok and remained in this post until 1956 when he was named Alternate Secretary General to the Colombo Plan General Meeting held in Saigon in 1957. That same year he was named Vietnamese Consul General and Minister Plenipotentiary to Burma, holding this post until 1960. During these years he was also an observer at the United Nations (1958), observer at the SEATO meetings in New Zealand (1959), and went on observation and study tours in Latin America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Israel.

In 1960 Mr. van Dinh became a cabinet officer in the Vietnamese government, holding the portfolio of Director General of Information of the Republic of Vietnam. In 1961 he joined the Vietnamese mission in the United Nations and later that same year was named Counselor in his nation's embassy in Washington, D.C.

Appointed Charge-d'Affaires in 1963 he served as acting Vietnamese ambassador to the United States after the resignation of Tran Van Chong, father of Madame Nhu.

A noted author, Mr. van Dinh has just completed a book on American-Vietnamese relations which will be published in June.

NOTE: News Media desiring to interview Mr. van Dinh should contact Mr. M. Byron Morton of our School Administration Department, 461-5500, Ext. 507. Mr. Morton is in charge of the year-long, eight-lecture Jennings Scholar program.