SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 5 (AP) — The younger brother of the late Ngo Dinh Diem lost his appeal for clemency today and is scheduled to die by the guillotine within the next five days.

The Vietnam press reported that the Chief of State, Maj. Gen. Duong Van Minh, had rejected the appeal by Ngo Dinh Can and the appeal of one of his aides, Phan Quang Dong, who also is under a sentence of death.

Both were convicted of murder, unlawful detention, extortion and harm to the national economy.

Can, former chieftain of Central Vietnam, was sentenced to death April 22. His two brothers, President Diem and his adviser, Ngo Dinh Nhu — were killed Nov. 1 after a military coup.

PARIS, May 5 (AP) — Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu sent a message to President Johnson today protesting against the death penalty imposed on her brother-in-law Ngo Dinh Can. She is the widow of another brother of President Ngo Dinh Diem.
Buddhist Under Quang, a Buddhist priest who professes satisfaction with Pre- officials, the same men who saw to the execution of Ngo Dinh Can, lived in Hue, was in United States, has found refuge in the United States.
Viet Squad Executes Diem's Brother Can

SAIGON — (AP) — While 200 officials and newsmen watched, a firing squad Saturday executed Ngo Dinh Can, the younger brother of the late President Ngo Dinh Diem. Can died blindfolded and strapped to a pole in the middle of a prison soccer field in Saigon.

His body crumpled and hung limply as blood streaked his black cloak and white silk pantaloons.

Can had been convicted of murder and other crimes while viceroy of Central Vietnam. U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge tried in vain to save his Can, 53, the last important member of the powerful Ngo Dinh family remaining in Vietnam, was brought onto the field in a stretcher. He had diabetes and recently suffered a heart attack.

Two prison officers took him off the stretcher and helped him to the execution post. His feet dragged across the muddy, uneven grass as the officers held him under the arms.

Two Roman Catholic priests walked by his side, murmuring prayers. The execution time was 6:22 p.m. (5:22 a.m. Detroit time).

The firing squad used American-made 30-caliber M12 carbines.

"CAN ASKED a priest to pray for his forgiveness," a government spokesman said. "He also asked the Vietnamese people to forget him and not to talk about him any more."

Two hundred policemen held back a crowd of more than 2,000 — mostly women and children — outside the prison.

In the city of Hue earlier Saturday, one of Can's chief aides, Phan Quang Dong, was also executed by a government firing squad.

More than 40,000 people gathered in Hue Stadium to witness the execution, shouting anger that they could not be allowed to go. President Diem and another brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, were killed in the Vietnamese revolt last November.

Newsmen and other invited guests started gathering an hour ahead of the scheduled 5 p.m. execution. A Catholic priest arrived at 5 and spent 15 minutes with Can administering last rites. All the members of the Ngo family are Catholics.

At 5:56 p.m., the firing squad, made up of 10 military policemen in khaki and red, white and black crash helmets, stepped onto the field.

AT 6:17 P.M. Can appeared through a small doorway leading out of the prison.

Phan Quang Dong faced the firing squad.

AT 6:21, two guards wrapped a black silk scarf around Can's head and stepped back. Can's hands hung limply at his sides. The wind billowed his white silk pantaloons.

A minute later the captain of the guard rapped out an order. The firing squad yelled back in chorus. Another order was rapped out. Five men of the firing squad dropped down to one knee, took aim. The other five stepped back and took aim.

Can stood immobile. For several seconds the only movement visible was the fluttering of his pantaloons.

The captain of the guard yelled another order. A ragged volley rang out. Can's body jerked at the post, then crumpled and hung limply from its straps.
Viets Execute Diem’s Brother

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, May 9. — Ngo Dinh Can, former overlord of central Viet-Nam under the regime of his late brother, Ngo Dinh Diem, was executed by a firing squad today.

The third of six brothers in the Ngo Dinh family to meet a violent death in the wake of the November coup, Can, 53, was shot by an 11-man firing squad in the middle of a field littered with bricks and tin scraps as the sun set beyond the prison wall.

The squad captain delivered the coup de grace.

Can was sentenced to death by a revolutionary court last month for murder, unlawful arrest, extortion and illegal financial dealings.

His last words were: “I do not ask for any favor. I accept full responsibility for everything for the sake of my country.” Clemency appeals by Catholic, Buddhist and U.S. Government leaders were turned down by Chief of State Gen. Duong Van Minh.

In Can’s former stronghold of Hue, more than 40,000 persons witnessed the execution of Can’s chief aide, Phan Quang Dong, on the same charges.
SOUTH VIET NAM

Dynasty’s End

At sundown they carried the prisoner on a stretcher to a soccer field at Saigon’s Chi Hoa prison. A slight man with greying hair and steel-rimmed spectacles, ailing from diabetes and a heart attack, he was lifted to his feet by three guards, hung slackly against them for a few seconds. Then he walked slowly by himself across the sparse grass, mumbling responses to the pith-helmeted Roman Catholic priest who accompanied him.

The prisoner was strapped to a wooden stake and, against his wishes, blindfolded with a black scarf. Then a military police captain barked an order to the black-helmeted, ten-man firing squad lined up 30 ft. from the prisoner, and the soldiers raised their U.S.-made carbines. The captain shouted: “Ban!” (Fire!). There was a ragged volley. Then the prisoner’s body slumped against the straps, and blood began to flow over the high-necked black robe and white silk pantaloons. Pistol drawn, the captain strode forward, delivered the coup de grâce behind the left ear.

Thus did Ngo Dinh Can, 53, brother of South Viet Nam’s murdered Leaders Ngo Dinh Diem and Ngo Dinh Nhu, himself meet death last week at the hands of his nation’s new military rulers. As President Diem’s overlord of central Viet Nam, Can, a tough and willful man, kept his region notably free of Communist Viet Cong. After Diem’s overthrow, he was arrested and tried for murder, illegal arrests and corruption; he was sentenced to die three weeks ago. Concerned that the execution might tarnish the image of Saigon’s U.S.-supported government, Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge appealed to the regime for clemency, but in vain. The government’s only gesture of mercy was to allow Can to face a firing squad rather than die under the guillotine.

EXECUTION OF NGO DINH CAN (LEFT)
On a Saigon soccer field, the coup de grâce.

TIME, MAY 15, 1964