

## Appeal by Diem's Brother Rejected

NYT 5/6/64  
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



The New York Times May 6, 1964

Fifteen persons died when the army plane burst into flames at Tan Hiep (cross).

brother-in-law Ngo Dinh Can. She is the widow of another brother of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

## Saigon Executes Ngo Dinh Can; Brother of Diem Calm at the End

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collapsed during his trial before a revolutionary court last month. Today he was carried on a stretcher and then supported by three military policemen. He was wearing his usual loose, white trousers and black tunic.

Mr. Can appeared to be calm, turning his head to talk with the priest and a lawyer. A black cloth was wrapped around his upper face, covering his gold-rimmed spectacles. After a volley from the firing squad, a military police captain delivered the coup de grâce.

About 300 people, mostly military officers and newsmen, witnessed the execution. A crowd outside the prison showed no signs of emotion.

In the city of Hue, one of Mr. Can's chief aides, Phan Quang Dong, was also executed by firing squad. More than 40,000 people who massed in a stadium to witness the execution shouted their anger that they could not see Mr. Can die as well. Premier Khanh, who spoke in Hue, explained that Mr. Can was too sick to be transported from Saigon.

Hue is where Mr. Can had ruled in the name of his brother and where the most bitter opposition to the Diem regime was first registered. The reaction there to the executions confirmed strong domestic pressure on Premier Khanh to carry out the sentences imposed on men hated for the excesses of the Diem regime.

### 'As Soon as Possible'

"Can must be executed as soon as possible by the Revolutionary Government if the people's support for the revolution is to be won and preserved," was a Saigon newspaper's comment that was typical of numerous statements urging the execution.

Observers believed that any hesitation in carrying out the death sentences would have inflamed opinion in Central Vietnam, where Buddhist leaders are already growing restive under General Khanh. Their complaints are against local officials, the same men they

charge with having persecuted Buddhists under Mr. Diem. The Ngo family is Roman Catholic.

A letter of protest was published today from Thich Tri Quang, a Buddhist priest who sought refuge in the United States Embassy during anti-Diem agitation last year. He charged that most of the Buddhists' demands for religious freedom had still not been satisfied. These demands concern legal status for religious activity and punishment of officials charged with oppressive acts against Buddhists.

Thech Tri Quang said that Buddhists were being arrested on false charges and that extensive Government propaganda characterizing Buddhists as pro-Communist and pro-neutralist was being distributed.

Though Thech Tri Quang does not speak for a united Buddhist movement—many of its leaders profess satisfaction with Premier Khanh—observers consider that his protest might signal serious new domestic unrest.

### Three in Family Remain

The execution of Ngo Dinh Can reduces to three the principal survivors of the Ngo family, once the administrators of a family dictatorship in the South east Asian country.

President Diem and his older brother and chief political adviser, Ngo Dinh Nhu, were slain in the course of the military coup Nov. 1-2. Communists killed another brother, Ngo Dinh Khoi, a few years after World War II. The widowed mother of the brothers, Mrs. Ngo Dinh Ka, died in Saigon last year.

The three leading figures still alive were abroad at the time of the coup. They are Mrs. Nhu, Ngo Dinh Luyen and Archbishop Ngo Dinh Thuc.

Mrs. Nhu, who was in the United States, has found refuge with her children in Paris. Mr. Luyen, who has 12 children, resigned as South Vietnam's Ambassador to London on Nov. 21 in protest against the execution of his brothers. Archbishop Thuc whose see was in Hue, was in Rome for the Vatican Ecumenical Council.

## Third Ngo Brother Executed in Saigon With 300 Observing

5/10/64

By PETER GROSE

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 9—Ngo Dinh Can, youngest brother of the late President Ngo Dinh Diem, was executed at sundown today by a firing squad.

The slight figure of the 53-year-old man who ruled Central Vietnam until November of last year hung limply from a prison stake for a few moments while Vietnamese photographers recorded his end. He was the most prominent member of the once-powerful Ngo family remaining in South Vietnam.

For the last moments before his death, Mr. Can faced a 10-man firing squad alone, his lips still moving after a Roman Catholic priest had delivered a final benediction and moved aside.

### Appeals for Clemency

Mr. Can was convicted of murder, extortion and other offenses committed during the Presidency of his brother, who was overthrown in a coup d'état Nov. 1. Mr. Diem and another brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, his political adviser and chief minister, were killed a day after the coup.

Appeals for clemency, including one from the United States Government, had been pressed on the Government of Premier Nguyen Khanh as late as yesterday. Mr. Can was sentenced April 22 and the Vietnamese Chief of State, Maj. Gen. Duong Van Minh, rejected Mr. Can's own clemency appeal last Tuesday.

The appeals were based on Mr. Can's physical condition. He was suffering from diabetes and

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# 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 Viet Nam. U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge had tried in vain to save his life.

Can, 53, the last important member of the powerful Ngo Dinh family remaining in Viet Nam, 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.



AP Photo

## Phan Quang Dong faced the firing squad

More than 40,000 people gathered in Hue Stadium to witness the execution, shouting anger that they could not be allowed 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 5:55 p.m., the firing squad, made up of 10 military policemen in khaki and red, white and black crash helmets, stepped onto the field.

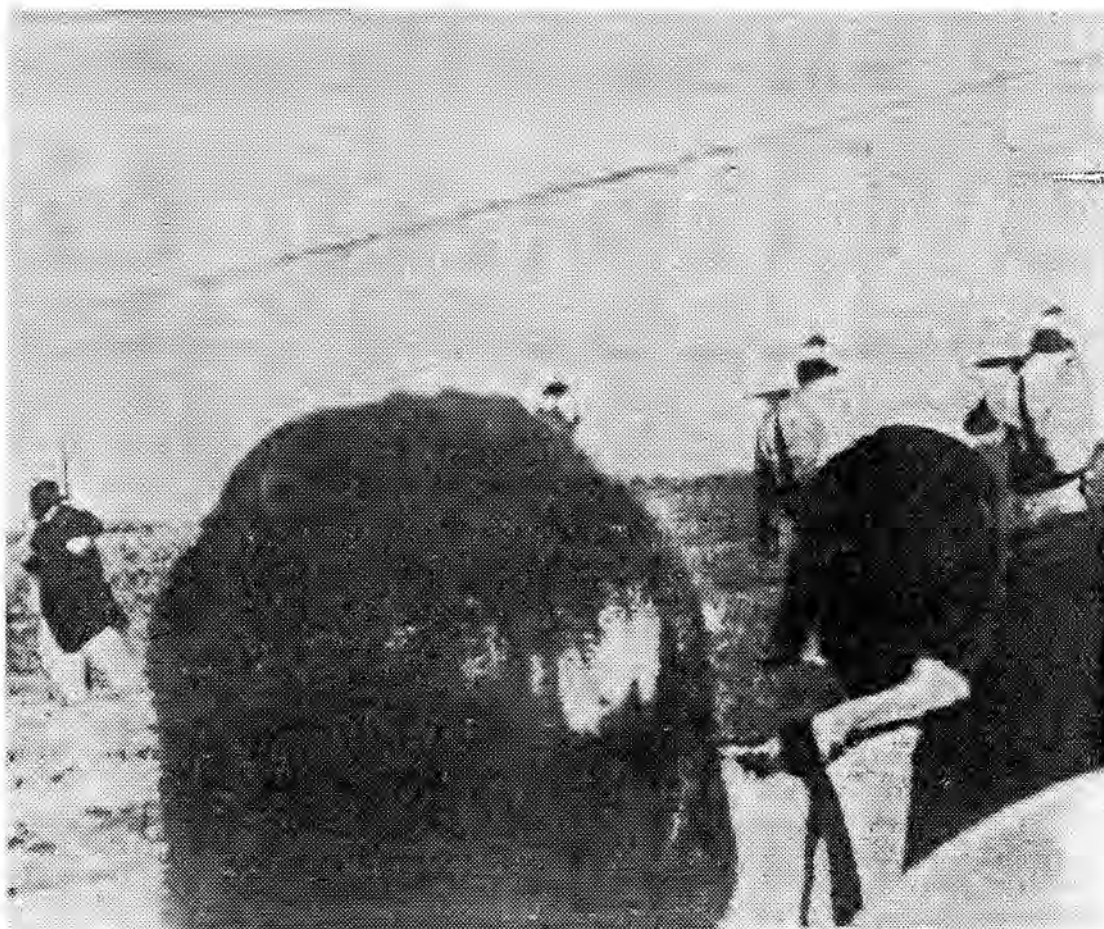
AT 6:17 P.M. Can appeared through a small doorway leading out of the prison.

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 and 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.



United Press International

Ngo Dinh Can, at left, younger brother of President Diem, before the firing squad.

## 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 ac-

cept 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, murmuring 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*.