

Vietcong Spokesman

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh

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"BECAUSE they boil with hatred, women struggle hard," said a Vietcong document explaining the founding of the revolutionary organization's women's group.

Women have fought with the guerrillas, served in propaganda and agitation work, done liaison work with cadres and taken part in meetings, demonstrations and "face-to-face struggles," the document added.

Woman
in the
News

Despite the traditional subordination of the woman's role in Asia, the Vietcong have always recognized the political potential of woman power. And in Mrs. Ngyuen Thi Binh (whose name is pronounced ngyen tee bin) the Communist-led guerrillas found a ready recruit.

The designation of Mrs. Binh, disclosed yesterday, as head of the National Liberation Front's delegation to the Paris talks on Vietnam was the latest in a series of missions around the world and a high point in a political career that began when she was a teen-ager.

"A dedicated fighter for freedom and democracy," is the description of Mrs. Binh in Communist source material.

Mrs. Binh, born in Saigon in 1927, began a career of political activism while she was still a student. In 1950, while she was a member of the Association of Progressive Women and was active in student and intellectual circles, she worked with Nguyen Huu Tho, a lawyer, who is now chairman of the National Liberation Front.

In 1951, Mrs. Binh was imprisoned for three years for anti-French activities. She was released in 1954 after the end of the Indochina war. She is thought to have moved to Hanoi that year.

A Roving Delegate

During the nineteen-sixties, Mrs. Binh has been a roving delegate for the National Liberation Front. In 1963 she attended international conferences in Peking, Moscow and Cairo. Photographs taken during her visit to China show her, slim and smiling, her dark hair pulled tightly back from her thin, handsome face, as she stood next to Mao Tse-tung, chairman of the Chinese Communist party.

The next year, Mrs. Binh appeared at conferences in Indonesia and North Korea. In 1965 she visited in North Africa. Pictures taken at the time show her slightly heavier and her jaw line somewhat less distinct.

In 1966, she visited Moscow again, drawing a stand-



Associated Press

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ing ovation at the 23d congress of the Soviet Communist party with a statement that the Vietcong ruled "a liberated territory occupying four-fifths of the territory of South Vietnam" and would fight on until they took the other fifth.

Twice, in 1966 and earlier this year, Mrs. Binh visited Paris as leader of delegations to the congress of the Women's Union of France.

Little Personal Information

The reasonably well-documented public life of Mrs. Binh contrasts with the skimpy personal information available, as is often the case in Communist countries even with public figures.

According to a National Liberation Front spokesman in Paris, she has children. But the spokesman could not say how many. Her husband was identified only as "a militant." Her headquarters was said to be in the rugged countryside of Tayninh Province, northwest of Saigon.

Many of those who have met Mrs. Binh during her travels have come away with favorable impressions.

"The impression one gets from her is of quietness and neatness—someone terrifically self-contained and self-possessed," said a Westerner. "When you see her, you know there is someone pretty important."

Mrs. Binh appears conservative in her personal tastes. She wears plain, pastel-colored ao dais—the traditional flowing gowns of Vietnamese women—forsaking the more flamboyant, flowery patterns.