In the early fifties, Nhat Linh moved to southern Vietnam with his family.

Disillusioned with life as a politician, he returned his focus to writing and publishing.

Still, Nhat Linh could be found discussing politics with his peers and local officials.

A frequent subject of criticism was President Ngo Dinh Diem.

1960 - A coup was launched against Diem. Some of Linh's associates offered support to the rebels.

However, the coup failed and known conspirators were rounded up.

1963 - Diem received more scrutiny after Thich Quang Duc's fatal protest against his treatment of the country's Buddhists.

1965 - Eager to quell further dissent, Diem went after more suspected conspirators in the 1960 coup. Nhat Linh was among those to be tried.

Later, at his home... Let history be my judge. I refuse to accept any other judgement.

The arrest and detention of nationalist opposition is a serious crime, and will cause the country to be lost into the hands of the Communists.

I oppose these acts and sentence myself to death, as a warning to those who would trample upon freedom of any kind...

On July 7, Nhat Linh poisoned himself while drinking with his family...

His suicide letter was passed throughout Saigon and to the international press.

At his funeral, his dedication was praised.

Your death will be a bright torch... A brilliant mirror in which we... must look at ourselves and reflect.

Four months later, Ngo Dinh Diem would be killed during a second coup.