

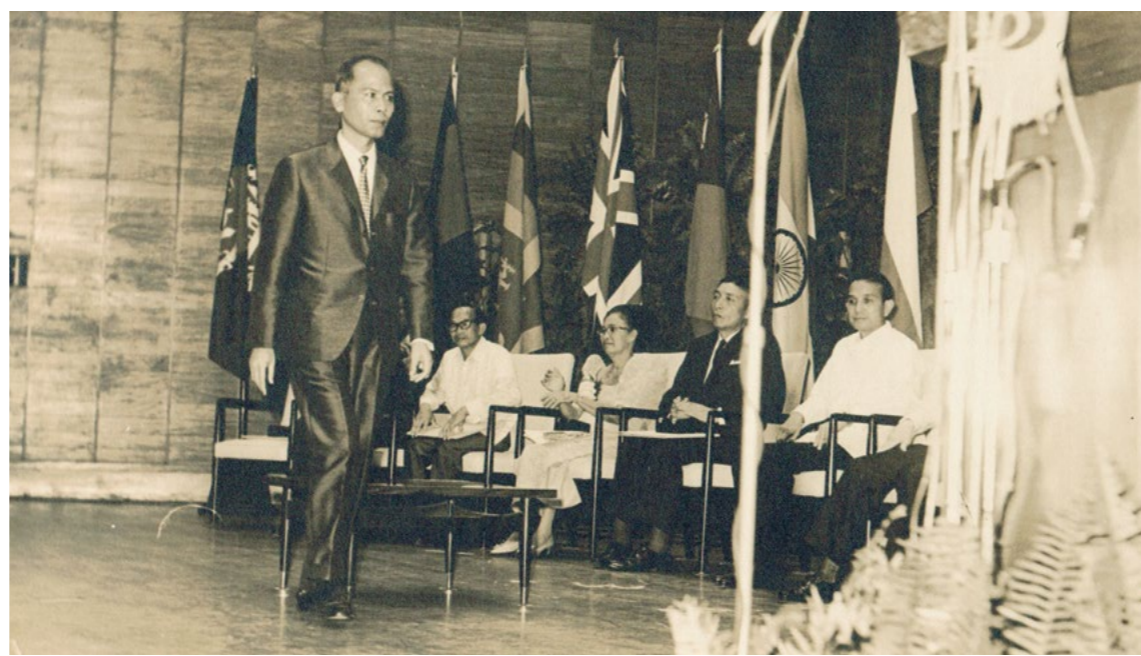
## Tôn Thất Thiệu | Class of 1963

Tôn Thất Thiệu, a multifaceted figure in South Vietnamese governance, was a stalwart advocate for Vietnam's independence from various forms of foreign influence. His roles as a government official, cabinet minister, Magsaysay Award laureate, journalist, editor, historian, and professor collectively underscored his unwavering commitment to the nation's sovereignty. Central to Thiệu's ethos was his staunch support for freedom of the press, viewing it as a cornerstone of democracy and a potent tool in resisting oppressive regimes. Throughout his life, Thiệu remained a steadfast voice for liberty and self-determination, navigating the complexities of a nation in flux with unwavering resolve and principled conviction.



© Geneva Graduate Institute.

He served as a personal advisor and translator for Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem. In the photograph below, taken in 1963, he is pictured with President Diem and American Ambassador Frederick E. Nolting Jr.



© Thiệu Family Archives.

During his tenure as Minister of Information, Thiệu implemented several reforms, including the removal of press censorship and the promotion of freedom of expression. In recognition of his efforts and advocacy, he was awarded the Magsaysay Award in 1968.



© Geneva Graduate Institute.

At the end of the war, Thiệu transitioned to academia, dedicating his life to scholarly pursuits. He served as a professor at the Institute and in Canada at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, where he lived until the end of his life.

