

Khanh's de Gaulle Look

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Premier Tran Van Huong will be toppled from power in a few days in the second installment of South Viet Nam's slow-motion military coup d'etat, reliable political sources predicted yesterday. In the first part, the civilian High National Council was purged.

Mr. Huong, 63, will be

ousted by the 20-man Armed Forces Council, the sources said. The Council is headed by Lt. Gen. Nguyen Khanh, but he probably will play a behind-the-scenes role.

The move against Mr. Huong is predicted for this weekend. The result would be the supremacy of a military regime that would work toward a permanent Constitution giving the military key positions of power.

In several weeks—possibly early in the spring—new gov-

ernment would be modeled after France's current Fifth Republic, the sources said. The "President de Gaulle" would be Gen. Khanh, who would be legally elected by a 120-man National Congress.

The likely candidate for Premier is Dr. Phan Huy Quat, who served as Foreign Minister when Gen. Khanh was Premier last year.

The first phase of the coup came Dec. 20 with the overthrow of the High National Council, the government's

legal basis and the provisional legislative body.

The second phase is expected to leave Phan Khac Suu as the Chief of State to avoid legal problems of recognition by other countries and to maintain a semblance of legality.

The sources predict that Mr. Huong will give way to an interim caretaker government headed by a civilian. This government would pave the way for the legal return of a Khanh government.