

2020 sag

yy twx

paris 1 (frier/doepe)

SAIGON, DECEMBER 6--Premiership. Although President Nguyen Van Thieu has ~~officially~~ officially denied South Vietnam's several delegations to Paris will "wait for President Nixon or anybody else," it the evidence here is that the short-term Saigon diplomatic strategy is to do just that.

Saigon newspapers general ~~refel~~ reflecting government ~~thing~~ are running banner headlines that it will be as long as six months before any vaguely significant substantive issues concerning peace in the South are discussed at the conference table. Vietnamese political sources, including some joining the delegations going to Paris this week, privately confide that the Saigon government is in no repeat no rush to decide any important questions until Nixon is in the White House—and they hope—American Ambassador Averill Averell Harriman, considered here as "selling out Laos" in 1962, is ~~replaced~~ in Paris.

--MORE Reuter

zozo sag

yy twx

paris 2 (friar/deepe)

Indicating Saigon's tough-bargaining attitude at Paris is one important and ironic concession that the Thieu government wrangled from the American officialdom before he agreed to end his month-long boycott of the peace talks. This concession ~~is~~ goes back to the final Palace sessions between the Vietnamese government and American Ambassador Ellsworth S. Bunker only hours before President Lyndon Johnson announced unilaterally^{ly} his November 1st bombing halt of the North--and before Thieu told the Americans he would not send a delegation to Paris in early November. As a last-minute compromise in these final Palace confrontations,^{S.} Vice President ~~Walt~~ Richard Nixon^{S.} proposed that Saigon would still send a delegation to Paris--but would first discuss only procedural questions, the implication being that the Vietnamese government was not repeat no longer trusted the arrangements with Hanoi that Harriman was supposedly making on its behalf. In the pre-dawn hours, shortly before President Johnson's November 1 speech, the American officialdom here reportedly rejected this compromise, arguing these procedural discussions would take months and Washington was in a hurry. But, ~~soon~~ ^{on November 2,} later, in attempts to induce Saigon to go to Paris, the American officialdom backed down and agreed to this condition which it had earlier rejected--the net result being that Washington and Hanoi lost time in Paris, but Thieu gained, at least internally, in political prestige and won even more ~~clear~~ clarifications from the Americans than he had previously asked for during the October sessions.

--more reuter

ZCZC sag

yy twx

paris 3 (friar/deepe)

Hence, while President Johnson wanted to launch immediately into substantive issues in Paris, some ~~Viet~~ Vietnamese political sources sources close to the government are now predicting a battle over procedures in Paris that may take as long as three months—or more.

Another evidence of Saigon's hard-nosed attitude at Paris is the behind-the-scenes role assigned to flamboyant Vice President ~~Nguyen~~ ^{CONTROVERSIAL} ~~Nguyen~~ ^{to} Ky who is the most prestigious and powerful leaders of South Vietnam's hawks—or eagles as they call themselves. Ky was ~~once~~ known to ~~be~~ ^{have once} opposed to any peace negotiations short of accepting a Communist surrender, and the fact that he is masterminding the Paris matters is a softening of his—and the government's—position to some extent. But, certainly he can be expected to veto making ~~any~~ many important concessions to the Communists. ^{And, the} ~~while the~~ sending of an elected Vice President to Europe will—^{VIETNAM} the ~~Saigon~~ government believes, perhaps erroneously—enhance Saigon's ^{International} prestige at the conference table, internally, it is evidence of a clever and calculated political move by President Thieu and the government, for the right-wing faction, which looks to Ky for leadership and trusts his no-sell-out attitude with the Communists, can not be expected to cause political ~~disturbances~~ ^{the better} disturbances in Saigon. Also, the right-wing of ^{of} the ~~political~~ ^{internal} political spectrum is now committed to peace ~~neg~~ negotiations of some sort, ~~but~~ and will have to bear responsibility ~~for~~ ^{of the talks,} for the ~~outcoming,~~ thus ~~be~~ eliminating their prerogatives for ~~diss~~ dissatisfaction, ^{in CASE A COMPROMISE IS ACTUALLY REACHED}

= = more Reuter

ZCZC SAG

yy ~~HA~~ TWX

PARIS 4 (FRIAR/DEEPE)

Eventually--at some time--the expectation here is that the Americans and Hanoi will reach some bilateral agreement for a gradual exit of some "foreign troops"--but probably not a total withdrawal by either side. ~~But~~ And thus, while the intensity of the war ^{is} may be scaled down, there is currently little hope that the Communist will accept Saigon's terms for peace and there is not repeat not a glimmer of evidence that Vice President Ky in Paris or President Thieu in Saigon will ~~at~~ accept anything close to the Communist terms of a coalition government in Saigon. Hence, while the war may fade away somewhat, out of the international headlines, the hopes for any genuine peace for battered South Vietnam appear very dim indeed.

The official ~~in~~ Saigon delegation actually negotiating inside the conference hall numbers only five and is headed by a competent foreign affairs technician and former ex-ambassador to Manila, Pham Dang Lam. The delegation of Vice President Ky, who will operate outside the conference hall, numbers ^{xi} ~~xi~~ sixty eight ~~person~~, persons; ^{these} ~~which~~ includes a three-man brain trust (one full colonel, two civilians), ^a ~~one~~ ~~two~~ twelve-man secretariat (including colonels, captains, typists, stenographers, speechwriters) and twenty seven service people (aide de camps, bodyguards, hairdresser for Mrs. Ky, cook for the whole delegation). Also a task force ~~of~~ of more than twenty ^{PUBLIC RELATIONS} ~~information specialists~~ press and information specialists is also scheduled for Paris, ^{Forty Seven} ~~businessmen~~ businessmen, Vietnamese journalists and other unofficial citizens are ~~also~~ also scheduled for Paris. ^{to be over.}

PRIVATE

--end reuter