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depart 1 (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, DECEMBER 7--Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and Saig ^{SUPERVISORY} South Vietnam's official and supplemental delegations were scheduled to depart for the Paris peace talks this week-end following a last-minute, pre-cooked flurry of democratic exercises in democracy and some low-ky key, behind-the-scenes governmental squabbles.

(Hank: Within a few hours, the delegation is scheduled to depart, so please then change the lead update the lead and make any necessary inserts from the wire services. ^{LATER} An is at the airport and if anything significant happens, IB11 I'll cable later into inserts to this piece).

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depart 2 (normass/deepe)

In a pre-planned governmental arrangement to demonstrate how constitutional ~~the~~ democracy works in South Vietnam, both the two-house legislature and the newly ~~was~~ appointed Supreme Court got into the act in sending the ^{NEGOTIATING} delegations to Paris. This exercise began on ~~Dec~~ ~~Wednesday~~ Wednesday this week, when ~~the~~ the sixty-man upper-house of the legislature debated and approved ~~the~~ ^{AN OVERWHELMINGLY} by a majority vote in a closed-door session ~~by a majority vote~~ the sending ~~of~~ of the official and Vice Presidential delegations to Paris.

Then, however, the 137-man Lower House of the elected legislature protested, arguing the ~~the~~ decision of the Senate was unconstitutional. Deputies from the Lower House pulled out copies of ~~the~~ South Vietnam's constitution, ^{AND} referred to Article 39, ~~second~~ section three, spelling out that the authority of the National Assembly was to "determine declarations of war and ~~and~~ holding of peace talks." And, the National Assembly, they argued, again pointing to the constitution, "includes two houses, the Lower House and the Upper House," which they interpreted to mean meeting in joint session.

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depart 3 (normass/deepe)

A more-or-less make-believe constitutional crisis had developed—and
~~them~~ on Friday, ~~the~~ two-month-old Supreme Court was given its ~~task~~ ^{CASE}
since its birth; the black-robed nine sages of the Court met ~~most of~~ ^{for hours on}
Friday, including over the lunch-hour, at Gia Long Palace and by mid-afternoon
decided that the ~~Lower~~ position of the Lower House deputies was correct,
and that both Houses had to meet jointly to ~~not~~ approve constitutionally
the sending of the delegations to Paris. On Saturday the joint session
was held behind closed-doors, and the dispatching of the peace
delegations was approved by the legislature, ^{AFTER EIGHT HOURS}
^{AND FIFTEEN MINUTES OF DEBATE.}

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depart 4 (normass/deepe)

In the end, the South Vietnamese government demonstrated ~~that the~~ for the first time that the check-and-balance system of the executive, legislative and judicial branches ~~w~~ could work in accordance with the written constitution--and that their unity of the three branches prevailed to give the delegation more ~~support~~ solid support as it prepared to emplane to Paris. Political

Aside from this rather sedate show of strength for instant democracy, a behind-the-scenes series of frictions began bubbling about the ~~selection~~ composition of the delegations. First, Mrs. ~~Ng~~ Nguyen Thi Vui, a prominent Saigon lawyer, told a Saigon newspaper she had ~~withdrew~~ requested to withdraw from the negotiating delegation because she objected to press reports that she was ^{MERELY} Saigon's answer to the Viet Cong ^{NEGOTIATOR,} ~~female head of delegation,~~ Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh. The niece of a Trotskyite and herself a teenage revolutionary fighter with the Communists against the French colonialists, Mrs. ~~Ng~~ Vui also came under ^{ATTACK} ~~from~~ suspicion in the Lower House for ^{SIDE. Some legislators warned.} ~~having~~ relatives on the ~~other~~ Communist ~~spy~~ and that she might act as a "spy for the Communists." Political sources here say that she gave up her ~~Communist~~ support for the Communists when he uncle was assassinated ~~in~~ by the Vietnamese Stalinist wing of the Communist movement.

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depart 5 (normass/deepe)

In the end, however, Mrs. Vui was expected to join the ~~date~~ official delegation. (Please update if she actually does or does not).

Second, ~~at~~ the some of ~~the~~ Ministers of the government, ~~in~~ and reportedly even Prime Minister Tran Van Huong, were known to feel they had been left out of the process of selecting the delegation. Instead of the Minister of Information selecting the ~~two~~ twenty-man team of radio, newsmen, ~~tv~~ national television technicians, public relations and other information specialists from within its own ministry--aides to R Vice

SOME ARGUED.

President Ky made the selections and began running the whole show, lower-ranging The stay-at-home government officials ~~had~~ became jealous and vowed that when their Paris-bound colleagues returned home, they would find themselves without government jobs. Also, Vietnamese-language newspapers generally supporting Cochinchinese Prime Minister Huong began publishing veiled or direct accusations that the Tonkinese, including Vice President Ky, MASTER MINDING ~~were examining them~~ rather than native Southerners would be running the whole show in Paris. The three-man brain trust which is to serve Vice President Ky while in Paris are all Northerners, these newspaper accounts complained, and Especially Dang Duc Khoi and Nguyen K^hNgoc Linh, Both for a long time serving the Vietnamese government in press matters, came under fire especially hot verbal attack from the Southern-oriented newspapers and in some even the Vice President Ky did also.

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depart ⁶ ~~2~~ (normass/deepe)

Went So Far As To Suggest

One Vietnamese-language newspaper ~~even fairly bluntly stated that~~
if the Viet Cong in Paris said these Northerners did not repeat not
represent anybody, they would be right.

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