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delegate 1 (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, OCTOBER 23--The South Vietnamese Foreign Ministry is hand-picking a small delegation of medium-level officials to send to Paris next week, in preparation for any new stage of broadened peace talks involving settlement of the war in the South, informed sources report.

At this stage, the South Vietnamese delegation is ^{AS} prepared to sit "in partnership" with the American delegation--rather than a separate delegation at this time. Presently, the South Vietnamese delegate in Paris is listed as an observer. This would presumably mean the Viet Cong could be represented as part of Hanoi's delegation, rather than as a separate entity--which the Saigon ~~gov~~ government has ~~consid~~ consistently said it would refuse to talk sit with.

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delegate 2 (normass/deepe)

~~Exact data~~

from

Details as to the exact status of the delegation—either separate or integrated with the American delegation—are not repeat not yet firmed up here and are probably open to further re-arrag arrangement; the Saigon government seems to be trying to get organized to meet eventuality.

The delegation—which has yet to be officially named in Saigon—would, more than anything, be doing a "reconnassiance" of the Paris scene; if it appears that substantial and significant talks, on the war (in) in the South are to get under way, it would be re-inforced with a more high-powered delegation or representation, informed sources report.

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delegate 3 (normass/deepe)

If and when substantive peace talks begin about settling the war in the South, the South Vietnamese delegation is expected to be headed by the Foreign Minister ~~himself~~ himself, Mr. Tran Chanh Thanh. Considered an experienced ~~neg~~ negotiator, Thanh ~~headed the South~~ attended the 1954 Geneva Conference, on Vietnam and ~~in 1962~~, he ~~has~~ met with ~~Ambassador~~ ^{AMSSRS} Averill Harriman and Xuan Thuy—both now in the ~~spot~~ spotlight on ~~the Paris peace talks~~. at the Paris peace talks.

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delegate 4 (normass/deepe)

Vietnamese reports and viso visitors from Paris indicate there are differences of opinion on small matters between Ambassador Averill Harriman and members of the South Vietnamese delegation. Ambassador Harriman has complained to visiting Vietnamese officials that he would like some help from South Vietnamese who can interpret Frenchmen and the second North Vietnamese moves and help to remove some of the obscurities obscurities involved in Oriental Communist thinking processes.

There were also differences of opinion reported on whether the Americans or the Vietnamese would serve as the co-equals in char heading the joint American-South Vietnamese delegation, or whether Ambassador Harriman would head the combined delegation. The South Vietnamese reportedly wanted to head the joint full delegation, with the Americans taking a back-seat role. However, all of this is still considered up in the air until Hanoi unveils some of its thinking about the next phase of negotiations and the role of the Viet Cong delegation.

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