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## Thai Rightists to Head Assembly And Probably Lead Government

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BANGKOK, Thailand, Feb. 6 — Thailand's new National Assembly elected a Speaker and Deputy Speaker today in its first working session since the Jan. 26 general election.

Nominees of the right-wing, military-backed Thai Nation and Social Justice parties were comfortably elected to both posts and are almost certain to lead Thailand's next government.

The voting gave the first real indication of which group could muster a majority in the fragmented Assembly and therefore be able to form a viable coalition government.

The voting followed several days of intense lobbying by the two parties. In today's three-hour assembly session, all 269 members of the lower House, which includes only three women, were called by name to place their written votes in a tray beneath the Speaker's podium.

The Thai Nation party's successful nominee for speaker was former Commerce Minister Prasit Kanchanawat, The Social

Justice party's victor in the election for deputy speaker was Pramual Kulamart.

The voting was interpreted as a severe blow to the moderately conservative Democrats, headed by Seni Pramoj, who had been trying since the general election to form a coalition government. Leaders of the Democrat party, numerically the strongest of the 22 parties represented in the lower house, acknowledged that they were now abandoning these plans and reconciling themselves to an opposition role.

Meanwhile, Maj. General Chatichai Choenhavan, deputy leader of the Thai Nation party, described the vote as "a test." He confirmed that the Social Justice and Thai Nation parties were now ready to form a government if called upon to do so by the Speaker. He added that he expected a new Government to be formed "within a week."

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