

Saigon Trip for 10 Congressmen

Washington

The on-and-off congressional fact-finding trip to Indochina is on again with ten House members scheduled to leave this morning for Saigon.

Ten days ago it was announced that President Ford had persuaded a bipartisan group of senators and congressmen to visit Indochina in hopes it would help his uphill fight to get \$522 million in additional military aid from Congress for South Vietnam and Cambodia.

Late last week the trip was postponed, on grounds that members didn't want to miss important votes, including an attempt to override the President's veto of a bill that would delay his increased tariffs on oil imports.

Yesterday the House part of the tour was on again and received an enthusiastic sendoff by Speaker Carl Albert. He said the "strong delegation" would make the fact-finding mission "on behalf of the House Representatives."

Representative John Flynt (Dem-Ga.), senior member of the delegation, said members were unofficially as-

sured that President Ford would not veto the oil import bill until late in the week and that a vote on overriding would not come until next Tuesday. He said this would give the group four days on the ground in Vietnam and possibly Cambodia.

Flynt assessed the group as about evenly divided between hawks and doves on further aid to Indochina, from which Congress forced a U.S. military withdrawal nearly two years ago.

The group includes Representatives Bella Abzug (Dem-N.Y.), Donald Fraser (Dem-Minn.) and Fortney Stark (Dem-Calif.), three of the most outspoken House opponents of U.S. involvement, as well as Representatives Samuel Stratton (Dem-N.Y.), Bill Chapell (Dem-Fla.), Jack Kemp (Rep-N.Y.), John P. Murtha (Dem-Pa.), and first-term Representatives Millicent Fenwick (Rep-N.Y.) and Tom Harkin (Dem-Iowa).

Flynt said he expects his group will join up with Senator Dewey Batlett (Rep-Okla.) and Representative Paul McCloskey (Rep-Calif.), who arrived yesterday in Saigon for a fact-finding trip.

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