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The Communist governments of North Vietnam and South Vietnam were both represented as member states of a United Nations specialized agency for the first time yesterday.

The World Health Organization's annual assembly admitted North Vietnam without opposition. But the United States, Israel, Chile and Spain were among the countries abstaining in the show-of-hands vote. The official count was 116 to 0, with eight abstentions.

Unlike North Vietnam, the Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam did not have to submit an official bid to become a WHO member.

A delegation headed by Mrs. Phan Tri Minh, an official of the New Saigon governments' Health Ministry, simply took over Tuesday at the start of the WHO assembly's 28th session the seat formerly held by the Republic of South Vietnam.

Only the namecard was changed. The "Republic of Vietnam" card that designated the seat occupied by the collapsed South Vietnamese government was replaced by one reading "Republic of South Vietnam."

Tonga and Mozambique were also admitted to the WHO to raise the agency's membership to 145 countries.

New York Times