

# New Thieu Power Endorsed by House

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 14—The lower house of the National Assembly approved a bill this evening granting President Nguyen Van Thieu the right to rule by decree, subject to approval of each decree by the Assembly.

The vote in the House of Representatives, after a stormy debate in special session, was 81 to 49. This does not assure the measure the two-thirds majority that would be necessary to override rejection in the Senate, and such rejection appears possible.

Of the 57 Senators, two voting blocs, representing 24 legislators, have declared their opposition to emergency powers for the President. The Opposition Senators claim at least four allies in the other voting bloc, which would leave the Government a majority of one.

The day began with a demonstration by 28 Opposition Deputies on the steps of the old French opera house that is the home of the legislature. The deputies spent the opening half-hour of the special Sunday session sitting in two silent rows across the broad stairs holding up hand-painted posters in Vietnamese and English.

"Go ahead and disband the National Assembly if you want

dictatorship—we will not delegate powers to President Thieu," one poster read.

The protesters drew attention mainly of security forces and foreigners. The people of Saigon paid little heed as they headed into City Hall Park, a block away to look at an exhibition of North Vietnamese arms and armor captured in the enemy offensive.

The Marine Corps Band played stirring marches and an enthusiastic voice, over a public address system in the park, accentuated the positive in the largely negative military situation. Children clambered over two captured tanks, one from the Soviet Union, the other from China.

Men and women examined artillery pieces, rocket launchers and mortars and handled Chinese rifles and Soviet machine guns. Many soldiers

looked at the displays, and their most common reaction was awe and respect for the modernity of the foe's arsenal.

In an apparent expression of Asian chauvinism, a middle-aged man admiring the Chinese tank said, with what sounded like pride, "Red China is no longer inferior to Russia and the United States."

The Saigonese could not resist touching and running their hands over the sleek, elongated 122-mm. rockets, which the Vietcong have often fired as a weapon of terror into this city and others.

"It's terrible," said a woman. "What's the use of a few sandbags?" The people of Saigon were advised last week to build sandbag shelters in their homes.

An old man looked at the 122's. "Certainly the whole family would go if it hit a house," he said.



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**NOT A PLACE FOR PLAY:** While people at City Hall in Saigon viewed captured enemy mortars, one child wandered among weapons. Display was intended to bolster morale.