

## A Huge Loyalty Rally Is Staged in Mekong Delta

CANTHO, Vietnam, Dec. 5 (UPI) — About 200,000 South Vietnamese Government workers staged a widespread series of demonstrations today to denounce Communism in general and the Vietcong in particular. Banners waving crowds turned out in the 16 province capitals and 94 district capitals in the Mekong Delta. The estimate of the total number of demonstrators was made by newsmen.

The demonstrations were organized on three days' notice in an attempt to marshal public opinion behind the South Vietnamese Government's opposition to some parts of the draft peace treaty on Vietnam.

Banners attacked the Vietcong as a political party, and vowed that South Vietnam would never accept any coalition Government.

Government officials who asked not to be named said that the demonstrations served the purpose of committing people to the side of the Saigon administration, as well as being anti-Communist propaganda.

It was the largest and best organized pro-Government rally ever held in South Vietnam. It more than matched anti-Saigon Buddhist demonstrations between 1963 and 1966 that toppled at least three governments and threatened a fourth.

In addition to the rallies in the towns and cities, main roads were lined with demonstrators.

The South Vietnamese air force made available to newsmen three helicopters and three light planes for use in covering the demonstrations. Reporters and photographers were told that they could go anywhere in the delta they wished.