

# More Lobbyists for Saigon To Be Sent to Washington

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 11 — President Nguyen Van Thieu has increased the size of the special mission being sent to Washington to appeal for continued American support.

Last week, the quasiofficial newspaper Tin Song said five senators would make the trip, but now it appears that personal appeals will be made in the United States by more than 20 South Vietnamese. They have been instructed to get in touch with as many American Senators and Representatives as they can.

One senator and five members of the lower house left this afternoon. Tran Quoc Buu, who is the chairman of the Federation of Vietnamese Trade Unions and who is said to have numerous friends among American labor leaders, said he planned to leave after this week. So does Senator Auling Nguyen Van Tho, who is a close friend of Mrs. Thieu and the only woman in the group.

#### Aides to Go Along

While the mission was clearly being coordinated from the presidential palace, many of the senators and representatives insisted that they were on a "semiofficial" assignment and many even said they were going abroad for "private business."

These explanations were offered, one informed official said, in an attempt to keep the

mission in "low key," partly so that if it failed, the failure could be quietly dismissed.

One official from the President's office has been detailed to the mission, along with a handful of junior officers from the Foreign Ministry.

Most of the officials headed for Washington have been abroad several times and are fluent in English. But some of them speak little English and it seemed unlikely that they would be effective lobbyists.

A number of South Vietnamese legislators are said to have expressed interest in going on the mission, which is also supposed to extend to London and Paris for reasons that have not been made clear.

The mission to Washington was originated amid increasing fears that the United States Congress, aroused over the continued war in Vietnam, might move to cut off military and economic aid. But the members of the mission, besides appealing for continued aid, are also to try to explain the South Vietnamese position on the peace talks—that any accord must recognize South Vietnamese sovereignty.

Last week, two special representatives of President Thieu—Bui Diem, the former Ambassador to the United States, and former Foreign Minister Tran Van Do—left for Washington to explain the Saigon's position on peace to United States newsmen.