



A single throne-like seat in the plane's front section awaits President Thieu

Oakland Project Revealed

A Special Jet for Thieu

An airplane that may fly South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu to the U.S. is being outfitted with VIP accommodations at Oakland International Airport.

It was learned in Washington that the Boeing 707 has been leased by Pan American World Airways to Air Vietnam, the national airline of South Vietnam.

The forward half of the plane has been re-designed with four sleeper berths and a throne-like seat occupying about as much space as is needed for four first class seats.

A reliable source at Pan Am said the plane — which has regular coach seats in the rear part — will be “ingeneral service” for Air Vietnam but “would also be used as President Thieu’s private plane.”

The jet is currently at

World Air Center at the Oakland airport where it is being outfitted.

The Pan American source said the original schedule called for the 707 to be delivered to Air Vietnam in Saigon next Monday, but delivery may be delayed a week or so.

He said the deal with Air

Vietnam was a “cash transaction” and the lease was of “medium length.” The amount of money involved was not known.

Asked whether the U.S. government was involved, the source said only that “this was a commercial transaction between Pan Am and South Vietnam.”