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Saigon's

Election

Still On

*Viet Cong
Can't Run*

SAIGON — (UPI) — A government spokesman said today Saigon will go ahead with plans for senatorial elections Aug. 26 despite yesterday's Viet Cong rejection of a South Vietnamese proposal for internationally supervised general elections.

However, because of a hitch in South Vietnam's election laws, the Viet Cong would be unable to participate as a party.

Spokesman Pham Duong Hien said, "We have our own schedule for elections. We see no reason to postpone or delay them. I think we will go ahead."

Proposals

In Paris yesterday at talks on South Vietnam's political future, the two sides presented proposals for troop cutbacks, restoration of civil liberties and general elections. Each rejected the other's plan and agreed only to meet again next week.

Under terms of the Jan. 27 Vietnam truce, Saturday is the deadline for setting up national elections. It also is the deadline for completion of the release of civilian prisoners, and Saigon and the Viet Cong agreed today on a timetable for freeing more than 500 prisoners from each side.

Election Law

Under South Vietnam's 1967 constitution, Aug. 26 is the date set for election of half the 60 senators. Senatorial elections are held every three years.

However, South Vietnam's new election law announced Dec. 27 stipulates that political parties have to establish a presence in at least half the country's 44 provinces and 14 municipalities. Parties were given 60 days to establish themselves and only three did so. The Viet Cong were not among them.

Under the prisoner release timetable announced by the Viet Cong today, 750 civilians held by Saigon will be released at Loc Ninh, 75 miles north of Saigon, beginning tomorrow and ending Monday.

In turn, 501 civilians held by the Communists are to be freed at nine sites starting tomorrow and ending Tuesday.