

MFR: KERRY'S PLANS FOR VIETNAM TRIP

As of 5/5/93, Senator Kerry has postponed his planned trip to Vietnam and now plans to depart this weekend. During a meeting today with veterans group representatives, Kerry received a call from SRV Ambassador Le Bang stating that FM Nguyen Manh Cam would not be available when he arrived, if he departed on Thursday.

Kerry plans to return in about three weeks (Memorial Day recess) with Veterans representatives (Larry Rivers, Executive Director of the VFW immediately indicated he would participate) and indicated to them that Senators McCain and B. Smith would likely accompany. He also reportedly said that the White House would "welcome" such a trip and would probably make available a plane.

For the preliminary trip, Kerry wants to take a letter from the Veterans groups; Ken Steadman (VFW) is drafting the letter which will be made available (quietly) to the League on 5/6/93. Kerry's stated objective is to get access to Group 559 and Group 875 documents.

It was also suggested that Kerry's intention in inviting Veterans participation is to cover himself against accusations that he is undertaking another "normalization" trip.