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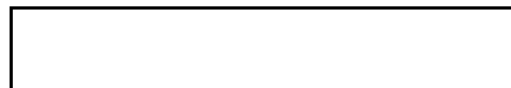
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SPECIAL REPORT

**COMMUNIST STATEMENTS REGARDING INTERVENTION
IN VIETNAM AND POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS**

6 January 1966

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GROUP 1
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State Dept. review completed

W A R N I N G

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Washington 25, D. C.
6 January 1966

MEMORANDUM

Attached is a compilation of Communist statements issued since 30 December 1965 on possible negotiations and possible intervention in the Vietnam situation. This special edition is issued in view of recent international developments regarding the situation. The next regular edition will appear on 15 January 1966.

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SUMMARY

NEGOTIATIONS

INTERVENTION

USSR On the eve of Soviet Party secretary Shelepin's trip to North Vietnam, the USSR's public position of firm and unyielding support for Hanoi's stand remains unchanged. Moscow has given the impression during this week that Shelepin is going to Hanoi to offer assurances of full Soviet support and to discuss further military assistance.

The USSR continues to state publicly its intention to go on rendering the DRV the necessary assistance to consolidate its defensive capabilities.

China Peking has denounced the US peace effort as a "hoax" and has reiterated its opposition to any negotiated settlement on Vietnam except on the Communist terms. The Chinese have so far not publicly commented on the Shelepin visit to Hanoi or on the US suspension of bombing of the DRV.

The Chinese are continuing to imply that they will not take the initiative in provoking a war with the US but are prepared to fight if attacked.

DRV The North Vietnamese in their propaganda and public statements have viewed the current US "peace offensive" as a deceitful maneuver designed to cover up further escalation and increased US aggressive action in Vietnam. From all its recent statements it appears that the North

NEGOTIATIONS

INTERVENTION

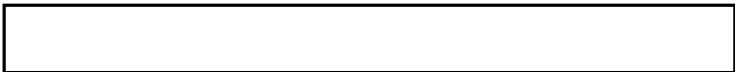
DRV
Cont'd Vietnamese are prepared to discuss a negotiated settlement of the war only on terms totally unacceptable to the US.

NFLSV The NFLSV has issued no significant statements on negotiations or intervention during the past week.



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COMMUNIST STATEMENTS ON INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM

Selected Soviet Statements on Intervention

Selected Soviet
Public Statements

Selected Soviet
Private Statements

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29 December 65: In a conversation with Ambassador Kohler Soviet President Podgorny said that if the US continued its actions in Vietnam all progressive forces, including the USSR, would continue to assist, as they are assisting, Vietnam in its struggle.

31 December 65: In an interview with Japanese correspondents Premier Kosygin reiterated Moscow's past position that the Soviet Union "has rendered and will go on rendering the necessary assistance and support to the DRV in consolidating its defense capabilities and repelling American aggression"

Selected Chinese Communist References to Intervention

Selected Chinese
Public Statements

Selected Chinese
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4 January 66: In a press conference granted to a correspondent of the Japanese Communist paper Akahata on 30 December and broadcast by NCNA on 4 January, Chen Yi declared that "the spearhead of US imperialist aggression is more and more clearly directed against China. If US imperialism insists on extending the war to China, we cannot but resolutely take up the challenge and we will not call off the battle until complete victory." [redacted]

This is a restatement of the standard Chinese line implying that Peking will not take the initiative in provoking a war with the US but is prepared to fight if attacked. [redacted]

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COMMUNIST STATEMENTS ON NEGOTIATIONS IN VIETNAM

Selected Soviet Statements on Negotiations

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31 December 65: Premier Kosygin, in his interview with the Japanese press re-stated Soviet support for the stand of the DRV and the NLFV on the settlement of the Vietnam problem, including a cessation of the "aggressive actions against the DRV" and a withdrawal of US troops and arms from South Vietnam.



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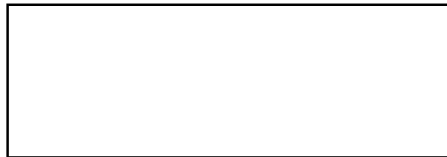
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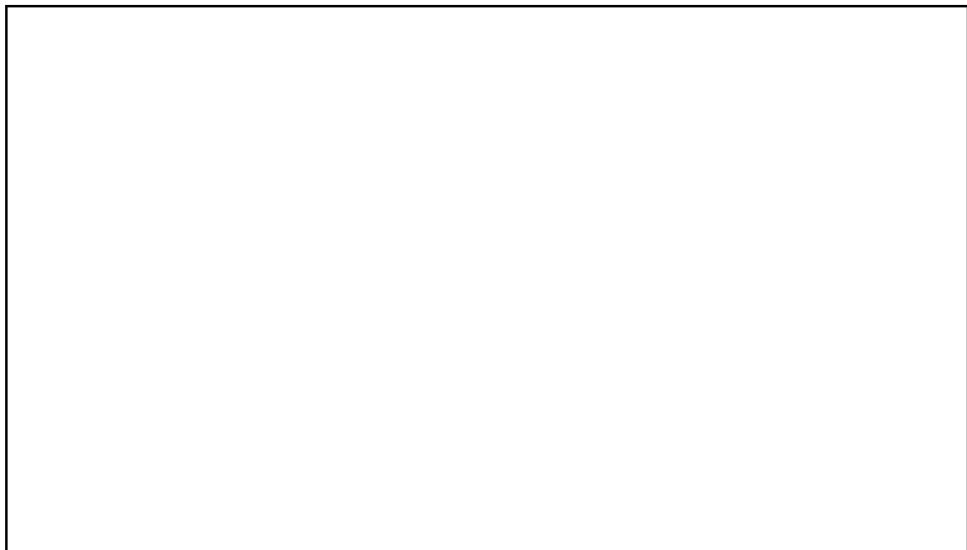
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1 January 66: An editor's note in People's Daily praised Hanoi for "pointedly scuttling" the US "peace intrigues" and asserted that the US objective in advocating "unconditional discussions" was to force the Vietnamese to surrender unconditionally. The note added that "in the face of the Vietnamese people's firm

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1 January 66 Cont'd: resolve to persist in their anti-US patriotic struggle to the end, the US aggressors will have no alternative but to quit Vietnam." [redacted]

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5 January 66: An editor's note in People's Daily declares that "Large numbers of high ranking Washington officials have set out in all directions carrying with them peace plans and pretending that they are most eager to bring about a peaceful solution to the Vietnam question. The tricks they employ have been countless." The note asserts that "some naive people have been tricked into believing that the US imperialists are truly willing to lay aside their butcher knives," and adds "Be it peace talk or escalation of the war, their goal is the same--the perpetual occupation of South Vietnam. Furthermore, it is to be noted that escalation of war has always been preceded by fraudulent peace moves." [redacted]

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Peking continues to assert that the US peace effort is a "hoax" and to oppose any negotiated settlement of Vietnam except on the Communist terms. [redacted]

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Selected North Vietnamese References to Negotiations

<u>Selected DRV Public Statements</u>	<u>Selected DRV Private Statements</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<p>29 December 65: Ho Chi Minh in replying to Pope Paul's peace message voiced Hanoi's first reaction to the current US "peace offensive." In his letter, Ho insisted that the "US leaders want war not peace. The talks about unconditional negotiations made by the US president are merely a maneuver to cover up his plan for war intensification and extension in Vietnam." The DRV President went on to state that "the US Government must completely and unconditionally end its bombings and all acts of war against the DRV, stop its aggression in South Vietnam, withdraw its troops and armaments from South Vietnam, and let the Vietnamese people settle their internal affairs themselves, in short, recognize the four-points of the DRV, a concentrated expression of the main provisions of the 1954 Geneva agreements on Vietnam, and really prove it by concrete deeds."</p>		<p>Ho's response to Pope Paul's message represented the standard, hard DRV position on the settlement of the war. The fact that he designed to answer the Pope indicates that the Vietnamese are concerned about their image in the international arena and will do their best to prevent the current US peace moves from placing their own position in an unfavorable light, or make it seem rigid and unreasonable.</p>
<p>30 December 65: The Voice of Vietnam radio broadcast a commentary on the "Peace Tricks of</p>		<p>This broadcast represented a tough restatement of Hanoi's basic position on</p>

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30 December 65 Cont'd: the US Aggressors." The broadcast listed and discounted various US peace proposals throughout the past year. The commentary went on to state that "if an end is to be put to the state of war, there is only one and most simple way, that is, the US aggressive troops must withdraw from South Vietnam, and the settlement of Vietnam affairs must be left to the Vietnamese themselves. The Johnson clique," the broadcast continued, "has over and over again harped on the so-called unconditional discussions, but as for the aforesaid key point in the Vietnam problem, they completely ignore it. Thereby, the unconditional discussions swindle is essentially aimed at compelling the Vietnamese people to agree to the US conditions, that is, to recognize the existence of US troops in South Vietnam." The broadcast concluded by once again insisting that "to solve the Vietnam problem, the only way is that the US must solemnly declare and prove by actual deeds, its acceptance of the four-point stand of the DRV, definitely and unconditionally stop its air attacks against the DRV, stop its

settling the war. The commentary implied that no movement in the Vietnam situation is possible until the US proves by "actual deeds" its willingness to withdraw its forces from South Vietnam.

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30 December 65 Cont'd: air attacks against the DRV, stop its aggression against South Vietnam, withdraw its troops from South Vietnam, and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs themselves."

30 December 65: In the course of an interview recently granted by DRV Premier Pham Van Dong to a Japanese correspondent the DRV Premier stated that "the only obstacle to a correct peaceful solution of the Vietnam question is the aggressive policy of the US imperialists." He stressed that the Vietnamese people were determined "to defeat the US imperialist war of aggression in Vietnam. Only then can the way be paved for a correct peaceful settlement of the Vietnam question on the basis of the 1954 Geneva agreements on Vietnam, whose most essential military and political provisions have been given a concentrated expression in the four-point stand of the DRV Government and the five-point statement issued by the NFLSV on 22 March 1965."

North Vietnamese officials have repeatedly used interviews with newspaper correspondents to express their position on settling the war. Generally, if the questions are not phrased to suit the official, his answers, nonetheless will be directed only to the standard Hanoi formulation. This was most true in Ho Chi Minh's recent interview with Felix Greene and to a certain extent is true also in this interview.

31 December 65: The Vietnam News Agency in an international broadcast on the US peace offensive termed the American campaign

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31 December 65 Cont'd: about peaceful negotiations "a maneuver to cover up their extremely serious war acts which they are carrying out or will carry out." The broadcast went on to state that reality "has proven that each time the US prattles about peaceful negotiation, the US aggressors take another step in intensifying and expanding their war of aggression. Practical deeds are the most correct criteria to judge one's words," the broadcast continued. The US, the broadcast concluded "has not shown the least sign of desire for a peaceful settlement to the Vietnam problem. Their acts are acts of war while their words of peace are but hypocritical professions."

3 January 66: The DRV Party Daily in a commentary by "Observer" took note of what it termed the "present noisy campaign of propaganda about the US untiring efforts to seek peace in Vietnam." The article recounted the activities of President Johnson's "peace envoys" and stated that the American position for settling the war which it claimed had been laid down by Secretary of State Rusk on 30 December

The Nhan Dan commentary seemed to reflect chagrin by Hanoi at a loss of political initiative due to the US "peace offensive."

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3 January 66 Cont'd: was "purely and simply a colonialist stand." Observer claimed that "up to now, each time they (the US) spoke of peaceful negotiations they made a step further in intensifying and expanding their war of aggression. It is so this time." The article concluded by insisting that "the four-point stand of the DRV Government and the five-point statement of the NFLSV are the most correct basis for the settlement of the Vietnam problem... If a political solution to the Vietnam question is to be achieved, the US must solemnly declare its acknowledgement of the four-point stand of the DRV Government and prove it by practical deeds; it must stop definitely and unconditionally all acts of war against the DRV."

4 January 66: The DRV Foreign Ministry issued a formal statement on the "so-called peace efforts of the US." The statement noted that "recently, the US Government has started a large-scale deceptive peace campaign coupled with the trick of temporary suspension of air attacks on North Vietnam as a sign of good will." The statement accused the US of making "feverish preparations" to double its military strength in South Vietnam while at the same

The Foreign Ministry statement, the first official DRV response to the current "peace offensive" was a tough and unyielding reiteration of Hanoi's terms for a settlement of the war in Vietnam. The overall impression created by the statement is that Hanoi is simply uninterested in talks at the present time, except on terms completely unacceptable to the US.

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4 January 66 Cont'd: time talking about peace. The statement went on to insist that a "political settlement of the Vietnam problem can be envisaged only when the US Government has accepted the four-point stand of the DRV Government, has proved this by actual deeds, has stopped unconditionally and for good its air raids and all other acts of war against the DRV." The statement then listed the original four points as laid down by DRV Premier Pham Van Dong on 8 April.

2 January 66: Hanoi published a commentary by "Observer" in the DRV Army newspaper on the current US peace initiatives. The commentary stated that the four-point stand of the DRV reflects "in a concentrated way, the main military and political provisions of the Geneva accords." The commentary insisted that "if the Americans want to end the fighting in Vietnam they must recognize the NFLSV as the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people and recognize the five-point

The commentary represents a more specific statement than any other DRV propaganda of Hanoi's terms for achieving an "end to the fighting" in Vietnam. The commentary in fact sharpens other recent DRV propaganda which has heavily emphasized the issue of a US troop withdrawal from Vietnam, and has appeared to be calling for a US commitment on the timing of withdrawal before there can be any movement toward stopping the shooting.

In part at least, the commentary was intended as an

Selected DRV
Public Statements

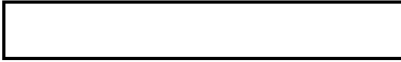
Selected DRV
Private Statements

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2 January 65 Cont'd: state-
ment of the NFLSV." In addi-
tion, the Americans" must end
forever, and unconditionally
their bombings and violations
against the DRV."

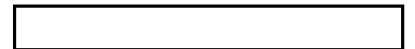
explanation of the lull in
the bombing to the DRV peo-
ple. It is also a warning
to them that the air strikes
will probably be started
again.

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