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Wednesday, May 10, 1967

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TEXT OF CIA REPORT [REDACTED]

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Ivan Ivanovich Kovalenko, Deputy Chairman of the Soviet-Japan Friendship Society who is now visiting Japan [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] on May 4, 1967, that "the American bombing of Haiphong will not increase the danger to Soviet ships. I am absolutely positive that the Americans will not bomb the Soviet ships by error. Therefore, the recent American bombing of Haiphong will not become a cause for greater tension between the Soviet Union and the United States. The Soviet Union will not be provoked by such American military operations as the Haiphong bombings." The Japanese word used for bombings can be translated as "accidental bombing or error in bombing."

Kovalenko also expressed his belief that there will be no quick solution to the Vietnam War and that the Soviet Union expects the war to continue for many years, perhaps ten or even twenty. He said that the Soviet Union will continue to help the Vietnamese as long as help is needed.

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