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BRITISH EMBASSY,
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Asan Perry,

Over the past several weeks the official Hungarian press and radio have pursued a relentless commentary on the Vietnam situation, and the stream of anti-American propaganda shows no sign of abating. Even Ludas Matyi, the Hungarian "Punch", had a cartoon showing General Taylor addressing a line of Vietnamese soldiers: "Will anyone who has not yet been a general step forward?"

2. In Budapest and throughout the country there have been numerous "solidarity" meetings, which have all passed resolutions condemning U.S. intervention and 'provocation'. This anti-American line reached its climacteric in the demonstration outside the American Legation here on 13 February when, as reported in our telegram 36 of that date, considerable damage (probably in the region of \$5,000) was done.

3. To the average Hungarian the Vietnamese situation appears remote. It must be difficult for him to understand the reasons for the U.S. presence there, and in any case he is presented by press and radio with a one-sided version of events. We have heard meanwhile from several sources that the Hungarian Government has been making efforts to supply token aid to North Vietnam, particularly in the form of doctors, engineers and technicians. In the factories people have been asked to make material contributions of clothes and the like.

4. In this context you may be interested to learn that when Dr. Vita Finzi, the departing Italian Ambassador, paid his final call on Mr. Kádár on 14 March, the latter devoted most of the interview to discussing the situation in South Vietnam. The Italian Ambassador found this surprising, as normally leading Hungarians are reluctant to discuss the affairs of other countries with Western representatives and prefer to restrict themselves to reviewing bilateral problems. In the course of this discussion Mr. Kádár suggested that the Americans should follow the advice of General de Gaulle and arrange for a conference to consider the situation in South Vietnam. Apart from this he merely followed the orthodox Soviet line.

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