

CANADIAN CONSULATE GENERAL



CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL DU CANADA

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PRESS OPINION IN CANADA

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The following editorials have been chosen among many, in order to give a cross-section of opinion in Canadian newspapers. They are for your background information and reflect solely the opinion of the individual papers quoted.

Montreal Gazette, January 4, 1966

Russia And Viet Nam

President Johnson's current attempt to begin negotiations with North Viet Nam depends to a great extent on the attitude of Russia; on the amount of influence which the Soviet Union has with the North Vietnamese government, and on the extent to which it will use that influence to urge negotiations.

So far, Russia's policy on the Vietnamese war has been quite restrained. It has made numerous formal statements of support for North Viet Nam. And it has supplied certain military equipment, notably anti-aircraft rockets for the defence of the Hanoi area. But there has been no attempt to revive the cold war with the United States and the Western world, by creating diversions at Berlin or elsewhere.

If the Soviet Union's influence in Hanoi were strong, it is quite possible that this would be used to urge caution and to recommend the beginning of negotiations. But there is little reason to believe that Russia's influence is strong enough for any such attempt to succeed. North Viet Nam has supported China, not Russia, in the dispute between those two countries. It has very good reason to listen to China rather than Russia; because of its geographical position it cannot help but be more dependent on China.