

surprising, not to say a little dismaying, to hear myself praised in the warmest terms for my alleged contribution to the peace and stability of Vietnam. And it was pleasant to be asked to convey to the Canadian Government the great appreciation of the DRVN for Canada's continued participation in the I.C.

11. This appreciation, I think, has deeper significance than any immediate gratitude the DRVN may feel because of our sympathetic attitude toward the Poles' present tribulations in the South. It appears to be a part of a recent general softening of the DRVN's attitude toward quite a number of countries – a softening induced by the hope of enlisting support against the prospective enlarged U.S. military effort in the South.

12. Observers like Mr. Ford, for example, point out that:

(a) The earlier harsh criticism of the I.C.C. itself in the North has recently given way to a much milder, almost kindly, approach. Notable have been two editorials in the government organ, *Nan Dhan*, of October 18 and 21, pegged to General Taylor's visit and alleging that the U.S. was seriously violating the Geneva Agreements. They commented in effect that the I.C. had discharged its responsibilities fairly well in the past and that although the Indians and Canadians had been guilty of backsliding in connection with MAAG, Law 10/59⁴³ and subversion, it was hoped they would do their duty regarding the American military build-up.

(b) Reaction in the North to the Thompson Mission⁴⁴ (application of Malayan experience to guerrilla subversion problem) has been surprisingly mild. What reference there has been to it in the Hanoi press has been buried in among a number of complaints.

(c) The North is no longer attacking the British and French and has adopted a friendlier attitude toward the Indians. For instance, when the French recently requested North Vietnam to withdraw its representatives from New Caledonia, Hanoi sent a stiff rejoinder but 24 hours later repented and became much more polite. And in a recent review of developments around the globe North Vietnam's Foreign Minister, Ung Van Khiem, observed that he was "very glad to say our relations with India, Indonesia and Burma have improved." (The Indians have since been at a loss to say in what respect they have improved.)

13. The drive to enlist support against the Americans is noticeable in other directions. On October 18 a statement issued by the South Vietnamese Liberation Front (Viet Cong-Viet Minh-sponsored organization in the South) declared that if the Americans bring in troops they will appeal to all peace-loving peoples and governments for help. This threatened appeal for outside assistance, it may be noted, is a new development in the struggle between North and South.

14. In line with this, as you will be aware, is today's (October 31) report in *Nan Dhan* that Foreign Minister Khiem has written to the Chairmen of the UN Assembly asserting that North Vietnam has fought unceasingly for the Geneva Agreements and demanding that the Americans give up their plan of introducing troops in South Vietnam.

15. This report has been written on the courier plane en route from Hanoi to Saigon. In another report I hope to record further comment regarding recent economic and military developments in North Vietnam as described to me during my brief farewell visit to Hanoi.

J. GREY

for Commissioner, International Commission
for Supervision and Control for Vietnam

⁴³ Voir/See Marvin E. Gettleman, ed., *Vietnam: History, Documents and Opinions on a Major World Crisis* (Greenwich, Conn.: Fawcett, 1965), pp. 256-60.

⁴⁴ Voir/See Foreign Relations of the United States, 1961-1963, Vol. I, document 299.