

The premier obviously fears that his military dictatorship would be overthrown by hard-core anti-Communist militarists if the way to the conference table were opened before the Viet Cong were decisively beaten.

Such a stand is, of course, in direct contradiction to American policy. President Johnson declared in a speech in Baltimore on April 7 that a peace conference or "unconditional discussions" was the U.S. goal in Viet Nam.

If the report of Premier Ky's position is correct, Washington should lose no time in setting the premier straight. The narrow aim of U.S. policy in Viet Nam is to bring to an end Communist insurrection in the south and to ensure a free and independent state there.

In the larger sense, Washington is concerned with containing Chinese expansion in south-east Asia.

Neither of these goals envisions the destruction of North Viet Nam nor the total defeat of the Viet Cong--even if that were possible.

There will not be a victory in Viet Nam for either side; it is not that kind of a war. But America's aims as well as those of Saigon can be achieved at the conference table where President Johnson is pledged ultimately to seek them.

The Montreal Star, December 28, 1965

A Social Time Bomb

The saddest casualty of the Viet Nam war, outside the immediate physical victims of it, may be President Johnson's Great Society. A year ago the form of that Society was laid out in glowing terms in the State of the Union message. Twelve months of magnificent legislative achievement in Congress laid the foundations for it. Now, as the cost of Viet Nam edgest towards \$20 million a day, the pressure is on to reduce domestic commitments. If that happens the Viet Cong will have scored a sizeable victory, for the reforms proposed by the war on poverty are not something