

**Hungarian Embassy to North Vietnam, Report, 16 November 1957.
[Summary]**

The document describes a conversation between Deputy Foreign Minister Ung Van Khiem and one of the Hungarian diplomats, which took place on the same day. The Hungarian diplomat remarked that while the North Vietnamese Charge d'Affaires in Budapest could move freely in the host country, this was not the case in the DRV. The Hungarian diplomats were not allowed to talk with Vietnamese officials, no matter how high-ranking the latter were (Truong Chinh, a Patriotic Front leader, and so on), without the presence of other persons, such as the interpreter (though both Truong Chinh and his Hungarian visitor spoke French well). They always had to ask for a permission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Note: These measures had been in use in North Korea since 1952-53; in the DRV, they may have been introduced as a reaction to the Hungarian revolution, because some Hungarian diplomats, including the Charge d'Affaires ad interim, were expelled in the aftermath of the revolution for criticizing the 1955-56 domestic policies of the VWP.] In addition, a permission from the Foreign Ministry was required whenever the Hungarian diplomats visited a place outside the immediate vicinity of Hanoi, and they suspected that the Vietnamese authorities read their mail. He complained of these practices very energetically, and Khiem did his best to explain the methods of the Foreign Ministry. He emphasized that they felt no suspicion toward the Hungarian diplomat in question, and they had just imitated the system used by the Chinese comrades. [This was probably the first case that Khiem, who would later become the sharpest critics of China in the VWP leadership, criticized, though indirectly, the policies of the CCP while speaking with Hungarian diplomats.]