

**Hungarian Foreign Ministry, Memorandum, 15 December 1966.
[Summary]**

This memorandum was written by the Hungarian Ambassador to the DRV, Imre Pehr, who was in Hungary at the time when a DRV delegation headed by Le Duc Tho and Ung van Khiem visited Hungary at the end of 1966. Pehr had several interesting conversations with Khiem, who informed him about North Vietnamese views on the Chinese Cultural Revolution. The official view of the VWP leadership was that the Cultural Revolution was an internal affair of the PRC, but in the view of Khiem, privately both VWP leaders and North Vietnamese public opinion worried a lot because of these events. Expressing his own views, Khiem called the Cultural Revolution "craziness," "What sort of cultural revolution is that?," he asked rhetorically. "It destroys culture, eliminates education, whereupon we were compelled to recall our 4,000 students from China." [Note: in 1966 Beijing expelled every foreign students on the grounds that the universities were closed.] During his stay in Hungary, Khiem showed an almost demonstrative interest in Hungarian cultural life. On his initiative, the delegation went to the opera three times, and then, again on Khiem's request, they saw "My Fair Lady." Khiem asked the Hungarians for Bartok and Liszt plates (which he indeed received), and repeatedly emphasized that his favorite composers were Mozart, Schumann, Verdi, and Puccini. When he stated that the majority of VWP leaders disagreed with Chinese attacks on the Soviet Union, Pehr asked him why the VWP leaders did not tell this to the Soviet leaders in the course of negotiations. Khiem then admitted that Hanoi could not afford to alienate China. He also emphasized that the party leadership was not united with regard to this issue, but those who were thinking more objectively (including himself) had to accept the CC resolutions, "for we are good Communists." That is, they could not speak openly about these subjects, for they were bound by party discipline.