

# UNITED NATIONS

## SECURITY COUNCIL



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LETTER DATED 19 DECEMBER 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED STATES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Two world leaders who command the respect of the entire international community have recently voiced the desire for a cease-fire in Viet-Nam. On 8 December, Pope Paul VI noted the temporary Christmas truce arranged in Viet-Nam and beseeched all concerned to transform this temporary truce into a cessation of hostilities which would become the occasion for sincere negotiations. And you, Mr. Secretary-General, expressed the sincere hope on the same day that the parties directly concerned would heed the Pope's appeal.

In the fourteen points my Government has put forward as elements of a peaceful settlement in Viet-Nam, you will recall, the United States has explicitly stated: A cessation of hostilities could be the first order of business at a conference or could be the subject of preliminary discussions. I herewith reaffirm our commitment to that proposal - a proposal which is in keeping with the appeal of the Pope as endorsed by you. Our objective remains the end of all fighting, of all hostilities and of all violence in Viet-Nam - and an honourable and lasting settlement there, for which, as we have repeatedly said, the Geneva Agreements of 1954 and 1962 would be a satisfactory basis.

President Johnson has time and again stressed his desire for a peaceful settlement of the Viet-Nam conflict. Other United States leaders have spoken in a similar vein. In speaking before the General Assembly on behalf of my Government on 22 September, I noted there are differences between our aims as to the basis for such a settlement and the stated position of North Viet-Nam. I went on to say that: "...no differences can be resolved without contact, discussion or negotiations". This holds equally true with regard to arrangements for mutual cessation of hostilities.

We turn to you, therefore, with the hope and the request that you will take whatever steps you consider necessary to bring about the necessary discussions which could lead to such a cease-fire. I can assure you that the Government of the United States will co-operate fully with you in getting such discussions started promptly and in bringing them to a successful completion.

I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Arthur J. GOLDBERG