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LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On 26 February 1966 you addressed to me and to all the other representatives of States members of the Security Council a letter regarding the question dealt with in "the letter dated 31 January 1966, addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Permanent Representative of the United States of America". In your letter you refer to the informal and private consultations which you have held and you mention a certain degree of common feeling on certain conclusions which you believed you could detect among many members of the Council.

You are familiar with the position taken by the French delegation regarding the inclusion of the question of Viet-Nam in the Council's agenda. Obviously, this position is not due to any lack of interest in France in a peaceful solution of this question. My Government's attitude over the years is so well known that we do not need to labour this point.

We simply think that the discussion of the affairs of Viet-Nam in the Council would do nothing to bring such a peaceful solution any closer. The reasons why we are convinced of this are likewise well known to all.

In any event, the fact is that there has been no discussion in the Security Council and informal and private consultations clearly cannot take the place of such discussion. In the circumstances, it is the opinion of the French delegation that no conclusion should be put forward regarding the feeling of the Security Council or of any of its members on the question of Viet-Nam. The fact that you sent the above-mentioned letter obliges me to make this response, and I should therefore be grateful if you would ask the Secretary-General to have this present letter circulated as an official document of the Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Roger SEYDOUX
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of France to the United Nations