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*American “Peaceful Offensive”  
Second Visit of Averell Harriman and Yugoslavia by the End  
of 1965 and the Beginning of 1966*

*Summary*

The US “peace offensive” and Harriman’s second visit to Yugoslavia at the end of 1965 and early 1966 did not bring the results that Washington expected. Although Harriman’s visit to Belgrade made a positive impression on US officials, it did not fulfill its basic task, that was to make pressure on the USSR to get engaged in the peaceful settlement of the Vietnam War. Yugoslav officials welcomed this peace initiative, but insisted on a permanent suspension of bombing and recognition of the Front for the National Liberation of South Vietnam as an equal negotiating partner. Although the official Belgrade presented US attitude within the “peace offensive” to the Soviet representatives, they did not send any feedback. Also, in discussions with representatives of non-aligned countries, it was concluded that there was no possibility for any joint action, so it became clear that Belgrade was not able to contribute to the possible start of negotiations on the solution of the Vietnam War. On the other hand, Hanoi firmly rejected this initiative, believing that the United States was not sincerely trying to establish peace in Vietnam. The Soviet leaders were of the same opinion as their North-Vietnamese counterparts. Washington’s reluctance to recognize FNL as an equal partner in the negotiations, as well as the hardline attitudes of the DRV Vietnam leadership about the conditions of achieving a peaceful solution caused failure of this initiative. The failure of the “peace offensive” led to the renewal of the DRV Vietnam bombardment and to the continuation of the war with unending force. Given that the SFRY could not influence the change of attitudes in Moscow, this situation led to a weakening of the relations between Washington and Belgrade. The continuation of the conflict in Vietnam has also provoked new criticism of US policy by Yugoslav leadership, which, in the new circumstances, the United States was not ready to tolerate.