stern countries, with
roval of their Com-
rulers.

Hungarians also are
ginning to look upon
uring Austria as their
and equal partner. His
on the side of this
ment, as the geogra-
and sentimental ties
d these two countries
Danube start to tighten.

picture is not entirely
tory from the Hunga-
int of view. More than
cent of Hungarian tra-
ntinues to stay with
viet Union and other
European states. The
reason why is
Hungary is poor
ally all natural resou-
cept bauxite. And even
er wealth in this ore
ks power resources to
into aluminium.

he present she is dra-
for power upon the
Union and has
into an
ent whereby from
ar onwards to 1980
ll send more than 50
nt of crudely proces-
uxite down the Danu-
oviet Black Sea ports
nward transport to
s new aluminium mills.

gary is also dependent
Eastern neighbours
materials such as
re and coal. In
she sends
anufactured goods to
countries.

this has not halted the
tide sweepingthrough
n caught between the
of Communist econo
nd the ideas and
of the West after
she so desperately
s.

East Germany, it is
at the Soviet Union
ce makes itself visible
orm of almost 500,000
garrisoned throughout
ntry and exerting an
al pressure on the
c and international
of the Ulbricht

even if the East Ger-
onomy has been lar-
erwoven with that of
the new wind of free-
at has blown fitfully
hout East Europe is
ere. Russian soldiers
t greatly in evidence
r some time Soviet
military units have
under strict
not to display them-
unnecessarily.

rare to see a Russian
. The only Russians in
ies who are visible are
n diplomats and journ-
But no one in East
any doubts for a minute
the Russian Army is in
midst.

you read the piece

Life's Many Sides

LATE AND NEVER

By TON THAT THIEN

The man who was most pleased about Captain Kuntze's press conference last week was perhaps this writer. At last what should be said was said, and still more important, what should be done was being done. It was naturally rather late, but better late than never. That, at least, is a comforting thought.

Some of you may have remembered the rather angry exchange of «views» between my colleague Tao and I and some Americans who had chosen to remain anonymous (just like in a duel in which my colleague and I stood in the open field and the other guys behind trees and wearing hoods over thier heads — and yet they were the citizens of the most open society in the world !). If some of you still remember, I was accused of being « anti-American » and of being « a dink » who did nothing but « gripe ».

Now, looking back, and especially forward, and bearing in mind what the demonstrators have been saying and doing in recent days, a little thought has perhaps occured to some of you : if, instead of pulling their guns out of their holsters and pointing them at me, instead of waving the American flag at me and calling me » the most anti-American Vietnamese in Vietnam » (I specified because there are some anti-American Americans in both Vietnam and the United States too--if we apply the same criteria, I mean-), those people had kept their heads where heads should be, sat down, used their imagination, and done a little thinking on the principle that after all, there is one chance in a hundred that the guy (that is me) was right, worked out the solutions and sent them on to whomever was responsible for keeping the relations between Americans and the Vietnamese people (and not just the Vietnamese officials) cloudless, friendly and happy, then a lot of unpleasant things would have been avoided today.

Do not tell me that it is always easy to speak with hindsight. It was not hindsight at all, because I and my colleagues Tao and Twist, each in his own way, had «griped » six months earlier, at a time when, as some Americans here have said, « there was an anti-American twist' in the SAIGON DAILY NEWS.» It has now turned out that it was not an anti-American twist at all, but an attempt to warn those responsible for the good image of America here (public relations. paywar, public affairs and what not) that, as the French say, « le torchon brule » (the rag is burning), and something should be done to put the simmering fire out before it catches on something else and sets the whole house (or should we say establishment) afire.

Well, instead of getting a decoration and thanks, all we igot was bad marks. Our names were perhaps entered in a blackbook, and there was talk of much worse. Incidentally, t was during this tense period that the SAIGON DAILY NEWS was closed for five days. We lost money, but did not lose heart and kept right on « griping », and got some more bad marks: we did not want people to say of us that « those guys warned us but warned us too late. »

We have been trying to warn many people, Americans and Vietnamese, about many things, but it was not always possible for them to read us. If general Ky had read my piece on Ta-Vinh, for example, he would probably not have such a headache today, and if the barriers had been removed earlier, their removal would have had a stronger impact than today. This goes for much else.

Before I leave you to sit down and think a little more about the above, may I suggest that Americans and Vietnamese who love America quit calling Captain Kuntze ' the U S mayor of Saigon'. That is really an explosive joke, because if there is a ' U S mayor of Saigon,' then there must be US this and US that not only in Saigon, but in the whole of Vietnam. That will be the Vietnamese' inference. And we Vietnamese have at least one big quality, recognised by the French: we have a very subtle mind and a biting tongue — at least when it is not cut off or boxed up...