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*Averall Harriman visit to Belgrade 1965
and Improvement of Yugoslav- American Relations*

Summary

Special Envoy of the President of the United States Averell Harriman visited Belgrade at the moment when diplomatic relations between Yugoslavia and USA were in downward trend. This situation was preceded by increased US military involvement in the Vietnam War and the Yugoslav criticism of this politic. However, the interest of the representatives of both countries was not to allow these circumstances permanently disturb diplomatic relations of two countries which resulted in Harriman's successful visit. Yugoslavs were interested in developing relations with the United States primarily because of the economic cooperation and expectations that Belgrade, in that sense, had from Washington. On the other hand the United States thought that Yugoslavia, taking into consideration its international influence, can significantly contribute to a peaceful solution of the Vietnam War. Conversations that Harriman had with the highest Yugoslav authorities confirmed that there were differences in attitudes towards possible peaceful settlement of the Vietnam War. While Washington insisted on cessation of infiltration of military personnel from North Vietnam and termination of subversive activities, Belgrade considered suspension of bombing of DR Vietnam precondition for peaceful settlement of the combat. The question of Viet Cong was also the point on which the two sides were unable to agree. While Yugoslavia had seen FNL as an autonomous force that in the future negotiations should be separately represented, the United States felt that this organization was under the direct control of Hanoi and that its presence at the negotiations can only be within the North Vietnamese delegation. Although both sides stood firm in their positions, friendly reception and positive tone of their talks announced improvement in their relations. Bearing in mind that Harriman's visit to Moscow was not successful, the meeting between the US representative and the Yugoslav officials was favorable rated in Washington. Confirmation of this was found in a letter which US President Johnson sent to President Tito as well as in the positive solutions for number of economic issues that were of a great importance for Yugoslavia. In return, Washington expected that Belgrade takes an active part in finding a peaceful solution for the war in Vietnam. In this regard, the impact of Yugoslavia in the non-aligned movement was of particular importance to the United States.