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V. P. HUMPHREY INTERVIEWED BY FOREIGN STUDENTS

HUGH DOWNS: "We want to do something a little different this morning here. We brought six foreign students to the BBC studios here in London. They're young people diverse in nationality and personality, and all are right now, either cramming for their final exams in colleges that they attend in the British capital, or waiting the results of exams that they have completed. In this their one desire is to give the right answer -- but they're also united by the common desire to get some forthright answers to questions that are uppermost in their minds about United States foreign policy.

"In school now, they soon will be out in the precarious world in which we live. And what the United States does has an important effect on their lives. Well, before introducing these students to you, I want to introduce them to the man to whom they'll be placing these questions in this hour.

"No stranger to the classroom himself, he must even now be recalling the day when he taught political science, a practicing political scientist for two brisk decades, he has twice been mayor of Minneapolis. He won three terms as Senator from the State of Minnesota, and now, of course, occupies the second loftiest elective position in America, the Vice-President of the United States, the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey. Good morning, Mr. Vice-President."

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY WAS SEEN IN THE
EARLY BIRD SATELLITE PICTURE.

HUMPHREY: "Good morning, Mr. Downs."

DOWNS: "It's earlier for you than it is for us here in London."

HUMPHREY: "Far too early for any intellectual activity."

(LAUGHTER)

DOWNS: "Mr. Vice-President, meet these young ladies and gentlemen attending London colleges. First, Michael Smithson,

from our host country, England."

SMITHSON: "Good morning."

HUMPHREY: "Good morning, Michael."

DOWNS: "Next to him, we have from West Germany Miss Uta Aurnhammer. And next Mr. George Ong'ute, he's from Kenya; and then in our upper row, first we have Albert Charbit from France; then from Italy, Maria Caleron, and finally Bustan Aljamadi from Iraq. Now, we're in London, of course, and we're going to return here to learn more about our young guests, and begin the questioning of the Vice-President after we go back to Frank Blair who has the news in New York."

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JACK LESCOULIE: "And now, the satellite, Early Bird, wings us live and instantly east to London where it is mid-day. It is also where six students are who will continue putting questions to Vice-President Humphrey who is in Washington, D. C.; with the students in London is Hugh Downs. Hugh?"

DOWNS: "In order that the Vice-President might better get acquainted with the students questioning him, we'd like to give him and you viewers a capsule briefing on them again, going around in the same order as you met them briefly before. Michael Smithson is from Manchester, London. He's 20 years old, in his first year at the London School of Economics, and he's majoring in the field of monetary economics.

"Next to him, Uta Aurnhammer is working toward her Master's degree in psychology. She was born in Kaiserslautern, Germany, 24 years ago, and attends University College here in London. She plans to go to the United States and stay for a year after she is out of school. George Ong'ute was born in a small town in Kenya, an East African village called Takamaga. He's a scientist pursuing a career in air navigation at Sir John Cass College. He says this will help in his life's work as a biologist studying the locust.

"In our top row, Albert Charbit -- he's from France -- and although born in Alexandria, Egypt, he is a French citizen -- he's 20 years old, studying government at the London School of Economics. Many of his friends have been to Viet Nam, and just recently, he attended the first 'teach-in' held here in England concerning Viet Nam. Maria Calderon is 18, she lives in Rome, but she was born in New York. Her mother is American, her father Italian, and she's an American citizen. She's been back to the States several times since her birthday. Last year was her most recent visit. She attends Bedford College here in London, studies French and Italian literature.

"And finally, Bustan Aljamadi, who was born in Bagdad. He's

24 years old, in his final year at the London School of Economics. He takes his degree in just a few weeks. He has finished his exams.

"Well, that is the briefing, and we're going to begin the questioning right after we say this is Today on NBC in London."

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DOWNNS: "Back in London and our six foreign students have met Vice-President Humphrey. He's heard a bit about their backgrounds, and now we want to get on with what concerns many young people in the world today, namely, United States foreign policy. We'll begin the questioning with Michael Smithson."

SMITHSON: "All right, Mr. Vice-President. American military action is steadily being increased in Viet Nam, -- will the United States stop short of all-out war possibly with Red China?"

HUMPHREY: "Well, our desire is certainly not to accelerate this conflict. Our desire, which has been expressed repeatedly by the President of the United States, is for unconditional discussion to bring peace to all of Viet Nam, and also, beyond unconditional peace, economic and social development for the entire area of Southeast Asia. I would say in direct answer to your question, that the government of the United States surely does not contemplate, nor does it seek to have any major conflict -- anything that would jeopardize the peace of the world."

SMITHSON: "Well, it seems to me, Vice-President, that you're just giving a politician's glib answer, and the additional amount of forces that you put into Viet Nam merely mean that the Communist forces are strengthened, and this goes on and on. Are you just going to get this all-out war? This is how I see things, maybe, of course, I don't have the information services that you have."

HUMPHREY: "Well, I would respond to your question that my desire is not to give you what you call 'the politician's answer.' I was concerned about the future of the world and as far as the students -- having students in my own family -- the direction of a conflict is not always in the hands of any one particular country. What we seek to do is to bring this war to an end, not to accelerate it or expand it. What we seek to do is get to the conference table and restore peace and order in Southeast Asia."

"There were accords reached in 1954, that established the 17th Parallel as the line of division, and which permitted the establishment of a government from the regime in North Viet Nam and one in South Viet Nam. We think that that situation ought to be restored, at least the essentials, and then the respective areas, the divided country, can plan its own future with the help of friendly nations."

"And I might add, sir, with all of the criticism that has been given to our government in these matters, that I know of no other government that is asking for peace, that is Hanoi and Peking. I noticed even this morning where the leaders in Peking are condemning the Soviet Union because the Soviet Union seeks to bring a peaceful solution in Viet Nam. What this nation wants, and what I want to assure you, is a secession of the conflict. We look forward to the day when we can withdraw every man, every soldier, every Marine from this area, and continued -- not military manpower -- but technical assistance, to contribute economic aid and development, to a very weary and war-torn area of the world."

SMITHSON: "Thank you."

DOWNS: "Uta."

MISS AURNHAMMER: "Mr. Vice-President, do you agree that the current 'active interests' in the Viet Nam conflict, is a good thing in itself, regardless of whether they are part of that administration or not?"

HUMPHREY: "I surely do. As a matter of fact, the most heartening development, it seems to me, of the recent days, is the sense of concern and deep concern on the part of the -- not only of the situation over Viet Nam, but the grave problems throughout the world. I had the privilege yesterday of addressing a Commencement exercises where my son graduated, at American University, and I pointed out to these young people that one of the most reassuring signs in the United States was that despite the fact that the nation is wealthy, that it had a high standard of living, and a high Gross National Product, that our students were concerned, our young people were concerned, about the condition of the world, about those who are less fortunate -- in other words, there still is a conscience. I would be the last one to be critical of the student."

"As a matter of fact, may I say that, when I was a student, I participated in many of the same things that you're doing right now."

DOWNS: "George, your question?"

Ong'ute: "Well, since, Mr. Vice-President, as every human freedom is the opinion of the majority must be honored -- this being democratic, why then, does not the United States withdraw from North Viet Nam in the face of all the existing opposition?"

HUMPHREY: "Well, my friend, I'm not quite sure that you represent a majority from that point of view, as a matter of fact, if you're speaking of the majority in my country, the United States, the overwhelming majority of the American people support the President's policy relating to Viet Nam. And yet, the overwhelming

majority of the American people support a peaceful solution and settlement of the problems in Viet Nam. Peace is not possible by one participant, peace requires the willingness of all participants to use reason instead of force, sanity instead of emotion and insanity, and very frankly, we have been searching for a way to peace.

"We have yet, received no help from those who are the adversaries, we have been rebuked in Peking, rebuked in Hanoi, rebuked by the Viet Cong, and not only we, but the efforts of the United Nations, the non-committed nations, the efforts of the British government when Patrick Gordon Walker sought to even have an audience to discuss matters of Viet Nam. He was told, not very politely, to be gone, it was none of his business.

"Now, when the President of the United States and the President of India, the 17 non-committed nations signed a petition appealing for reason and peaceful discussion, and the -- Great Britain, and only recently the Soviet Union, when they asked for peace and are told there will be no peace, I don't think you can say that the fault of the struggle lies with the people of the United States or its government -- or their government, I should say."

DOWNNS: "Did you mean majority, George, in the sense, majority of the United States citizens, or did you have something else in mind?"

Ong'ute: "No, well, I meant the majority in the rest of the world, and the other nations of the world taken into account."

HUMPHREY: "Well, it would be very difficult for me, George, to ascertain whether there was a majority or not. Having participated in a number of movements myself, I'm not always sure that the -- you measure majority by the intensity of the discussion. There are times that loud voices appear to be that of a multitude, however a majority is not always determined by the intensity of the movement of those who may be in protest, particularly when protestation generally exceeds in terms of its manifestation the -- especially the majority -- No, George, I don't think there is a majority that opposes us. If I thought so, I would be more deeply concerned than I am. I know there is not a majority in the United States that opposes the policy that we pursue."

DOWNNS: "We might have time for a quick question and answer from Albert Charbit -- Albert?"

CHARBIT: "I'd like to change the topic and go on to General DeGaulle. Do you think President De Gaulle will change actually toward the United States and become more friendly in the near future? I'm taking into account his sudden backing down in Germany over this week-end when he was meeting difficulties and then, suddenly becoming more compromising."

HUGH DOWNS: "We have just about a minute for that one."

HUMPHREY: "I think that there are possibilities that General De Gaulle may soften his attitude somewhat. He's now in an intensive election campaign, but be that as it may, the United States and France and the countries in NATO will survive any President of any country and even temporary difficulties.

"The long friendships between these great nations, particularly France and the United States, I believe, will outlast any momentary differences that we might have."

DOWNS: "Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. We're going to return to our discussion between six foreign students in London's BBC studios and Vice-President Hubert Humphrey in Washington, in just a few moments. We have to take time out right now, for a station break."

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(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

FRANK BLAIR: "Well, we left off our Trans-Atlantic questioning of Vice-President Hubert Humphrey in Washington by some foreign students who have gathered here in the BBC Studios in London. We were in the midst of what might be called Satellite Semester, or Early Bird Political Science 101, and I think we've gotten up to Maria Calderon, representing Italy. Maria, what is your question to the Vice President?"

MARIA CALDERON: "Mr. Humphrey, in the past few years, the prestige of the United States seems to have suffered considerably in the world, although perhaps just recently it has gone up a notch or two. Would you agree that perhaps in the past, the United States tended to be more concerned about being liked by the world whereas now she has realized just how important it is to be respected by it?"

HUMPHREY: "When you ask this, I would say that this is possibly a human frailty, and we're quite human. It's been a little difficult for a nation as young as ours in the field of international relations and responsibilities to recognize that the quality of respect for a nation is maybe more important than just being liked, but the American people have been called upon to do a great deal and they have paid very heavily in terms of their taxes and some of their sacrifices, and like most humans, and this I think tells a great deal about the quality of our democracy, the people here want to be liked and it is sometimes reflected through their government. But recently, I would say we've matured and become a more objective and responsible power."

BLAIR: "Does that answer your question, Maria?"

CALDERON: "Yes, sir."

BLAIR: "Bustam, a question for you."

ALJAMABA: "Mr. Vice President, it has always been your government's policy to stand by international law and uphold international agreements. What is the legal justification for American intervention in the Dominican Republic?"

HUMPHREY: "Well, the legal justification for our initial intervention was to protect American lives, which surely is respected under international law. Our government was informed openly and frankly by what authorities there were left in the Dominican Republic that these authorities could no longer give protection for American lives and there were about three thousand Americans in Santo Domingo, also other countries were deeply concerned over the safety of their nationals. The United States took action after there was complete break-down of law and order to move in to protect the lives of our own people and the lives of other nationals. Now that was the initial movement. Next, I would say, we appealed to the Organization of American States for that organization to try to provide some kind of peace-making machinery to re-establish a degree of order, but the O.A.S. seemed incapable of doing that at the time, even though we did appeal, even though we initiated the resolution in the O.A.S., and when there was no response, we felt it was necessary to move in larger forces. I want to say quite candidly to you that this has been one of the most distressing actions that we have ever had to take. We have a high regard for our long term relationships with the Latin American countries. We do not like intervention, nor do we truly believe in it, but a country would be unworthy of respect either by its own people or others if it stood by and permitted mass assassination and disorder - assassination of its own nationals,

looting and killing in the streets of Santo Domingo in the hotels, and even threats to the embassies, not only to our own country but to several countries. "

ALJAMBA: "But may I say that you consulted the O.A.S. organization after the intervention had already taken place."

HUMPHREY: "After the first intervention to protect the lives of the American citizens, that is correct. It should be said, however, that that we did ask the O.A.S. after that initial operation of some four hundred, and that's all, some four hundred of our forces to rescue some of our own nationals who were being driven into the American compound in the embassy and in the Ambassador Hotel in Santo Domingo. We did appeal to the O.A.S. The O.A.S. had long dispute over its juridical authority and then was incapable of coming to a decision. We had to take some action. We had one incident here, sir, of Castro's Cuba. We do not intend to let that happen again. We do not believe that we serve the cause of freedom, or justice, or democracy, or decency, or humanity, by permitting a situation to develop in the hemisphere if we can avoid it wherein dictatorship and tyranny and despotism and murder become the pattern of the day."

FRANK BLAIR: "Michael Smithson, it would be your turn now."

SMITHSON: "Well, may I move on to the controversy in your country, sir. How do you view the statement made recently by the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board that the economic conditions in the United States at the present time are very similar to those preceding the Great Depression in 1929?"

HUMPHREY: "Well, sir, I take exception to the comments of the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. I think there was a little over-emphasis of what he said and possibly a little misrepresentation, but some of it is that there are warning signs, there are danger signs, in our economy. It is my view that this economy is strong, that every indication tells us that there is a continuing strength, employment is high, dividend rate is good, earnings upon capital high, profits high, the wage structure for the American worker is at an all-time high, and I believe one of the most important signs is the commitment on the part of American industry for investment in new plants and equipment, running at about fifty billion dollars a year, which is 12 per cent over last year, 45 per cent over what it was four years ago. I think Mr. Martin is wrong, I regret that the statements have been made, I don't think it helps either here, or where you are, sir."

STUDENT: "Are Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic having any effect on your government's policy?"

HUMPHREY: "I am sure that discussion and debate always have some effect upon decision. That's the democratic process. I do believe that these discussions and this careful examination that is made by students, professors, journalists and others, does cause the leaders of government to re-examine their position, to carefully analyze all the complaints of the criticisms that were made. It's my view that the President is very much aware of these criticisms and insists that the officers of his

government respond to it not by mere argument, but by re-examination of what we're doing. Take for example when there have been criticisms by some of the military about the quality of equipment in Viet Nam. That's been carefully examined and checked into. It is my view that the great speech of President Johnson at Johns Hopkins University was in part initiated and I think inspired by the careful analysis made in the United States by people here who were concerned about our policy, and wanted to know just what it was in depth, and the President spoke openly, candidly, and I think made a very thoughtful and helpful address."

FRANK BLAIR: "George Ong'ute's turn."

ONG'UTE: "Mr. Vice President, can one notice a real human change in the American people regarding civil rights?"

HUMPHREY: "Oh, yes. I must say that this is the most encouraging development in our country. I've been deeply involved in the civil rights movement for most of my adult life, and I can say to you without question that the compliance with the civil rights act of 1964 is good. There is still much to be done, but the American people want it done, and it will be done. Illegal barriers to equal opportunity are being removed, and now its a matter of the American people, as people everywhere, having a personal respect for the Negro and the rights of the individual. Yes, we're making progress, and I think possibly that this is the most heartening sign of our time."

ALBERT CHARBIT: "I'd like to go back to Viet Nam. Do you think the conference of the neutralists in Algeria will, or at least could, greatly help to reach a final solution to the Viet Namese problem, and are you going to try and use this conference to bring final peace in Viet Nam, or at least the first steps to final peace?"

HUMPHREY: "I'm not at all sure that we could use it, even if we wanted to, and of course we would not be there, but we will surely watch its deliberations. This conference could be very helpful if it takes an objective view and doesn't seek to assess blame upon just one party, namely the United States. I appeal to young people in particular to take a look at the terror and the subversion which has taken place in South Viet Nam by the Viet Cong and the forces from the north. War is always an ugly business, and no one comes out of it without some stains, but it is nothing short of tragic that hamlets have been burned and destroyed and local officials have been assassinated, and that there seems to have been a determined attack on the leadership core of South Viet Nam by the Viet Cong. Teachers and doctors and agriculturists and specialists have been kidnapped and mutilated and assassinated. This sort of think must come to a halt. I appeal to the nations of the world to use the good offices of their respective governmental officials and private groups to call for reason and sanity. This government of the United States has said to its President that we are prepared for unconditional discussions, prepared to talk about any proposal that will lead to a just peace, but I want it equally clear that we are unafraid and a powerful nation, we do not seek to use this power for purposes of conquest, but we will not withdraw simply because somebody says we ought to. We believe that we are making some sacrifices for South Viet Nam that have meaning to other small nations. There are over one hundred small nations in this world, and if small nations can be gobbled up by the powerful, if aggression can show its face in new forms, in terrorism and propaganda and subversion, then there is no hope and no

possibility of life for a small nation. This nation, the United States, is committed to peace keeping, and we prefer to do it through international organizations, through the United Nations, through the Organization of American States, and other international bodies."

CHARBIT: "Unfortunately, Mr. Vice President, I agree that the American intervention in Viet Nam in the mid 50's was based on noble intent, but don't you think it has degenerated into futile business which instead of stabilizing the South Viet Nameese domestic situation has caused untold trouble and increased difficulties. I am specifically thinking of the eight coups since '63, and the counter coups, and particularly the one a couple of days ago. I mean, the domestic situation is not at all stabilized, it's in fact being worsened, and today we hear about South Viet Nameese troops refusing to fight, or at least wanting to be taken by helicopter to the spots where they're supposed to fight."

HUMPHREY: "There isn't any doubt but what the political instability in South Viet Nam has aggravated the situation and made it very difficult to carry on any kind of effective program either of resisting aggression or of rebuilding an economy. But, you must keep in mind, sir, that this government in this country has been besieged over many years, that the Viet Cong and North Viet Nam have intensified their efforts to literally destroy the fabric of government administration. Over ten thousand government officials at the local level have either been killed or they are casualties or kidnapped. Now, when you have a program of harrassment and of attack upon the governmental structure itself at the hamlet level up to the top level, it makes it very difficult for a country that has really never had any independence over many, many hundreds of years, to re-establish independence. We know our assignment is difficult, but I don't think it helps a great deal to promote freedom and independence by simply saying that the situation looks difficult. Difficult it is, but difficulties we have met before, and we are prepared to meet them again."

FRANK BLAIR: "Well, Mr. Vice-President, in the time remaining, we might ask you if there are any questions you might like to ask any of our students here?"

HUMPHREY: "Yes, I'd like to. I know how concerned these young people are over peace in the world, and I want to know if they have any suggestion they can make as to how we can get the government in Hanoi, in North Viet Nam, or in China, in Peiking, to sit down at the conference table and talk about peace."

FRANK BLAIR: "Anyone want to tackle that, in one minute?"

SMITHSON: "Why don't you recognize Red China in the first place and give them their fair and vital place in the United Nations, instead of just denying their existence as you are trying to do for the past thirteen years or so."

HUMPHREY: "We do not deny their existence, we deplore their conduct, and the United Nations are supposed to be an assembly of peace-making nations, and as long as China insists that aggression is the way of life and repudiates peaceful co-existence as it has done and

and even attacks the ideology of the Soviet Union, much less what they call the 'imperialism' of the United States, I doubt that China has merited a place at the conference tables at the United Nations."

FRANK BLAIR: "Thank you, Mr. Vice President. Thanks to our students here in the BBC studios in London for this discussion, Trans-Atlantic, by Early Bird Satellite."



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