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INTERNATIONAL NOTES

SOUTH VIETNAM

The "Quiet American"
Is Fired

Major-General Edward Lansdale, one of the leading American intelligence specialists in combating national-liberation movements, was recalled from Saigon at the end of February. Known as the prototype of Aldin Pyle, Graham Greene's "Quiet American," he helped install Ngo Dinh Diem in power in 1954. For this he was decorated, promoted and transferred to Washington. Half a year ago, however, he was again sent to South Vietnam; this time, American papers said, his assignment was to drive a wedge between the South Vietnamese guerillas and

peasants and thus help tip the scales of war in Washington's favour.

On his return to Saigon, the General rolled up his sleeves and went to work. It was at his insistence that American planes began to drop not only bombs and napalm on the rural areas occupied by the patriots but bags with sweets—a present from Uncle Sam. It was his idea too to make "special task" puppet troops disguised as Liberation Army fighters raid peaceful villages and kill and rob peasants.

But all this did not bring the desired results. Lansdale, the *Washington Post* wrote the other day, was expected to win the confidence of the Vietnamese and help set up a stable representative government. He and his group failed in both.

Hence his recall, dismissal, and virtual official admission of the fiasco of his "sweet" scheme.