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Dang Duc Khoi, newly appointed special assistant to Vice-President Ky, believes Police Director Loan is behind the recent upsurge in anti-American editorials in the press and has advised Ky to restrain Loan, according to a clandestine source. Khoi reportedly met with Ky on 13 December to discuss the problem and mentioned several instances of anti-Americanism which could be attributed to Loan and his subordinates, Mai Den, whom Khoi described as the "master mind" of these incidents. One was the series of anti-American articles which have recently appeared in the daily Cong Chung, a paper generally considered to be under at least a degree of direct control by Loan.

Khoi expressed the fear that, while the Loan-Mai Den campaign has not yet reached serious proportions, continued free rein for them could damage US-Vietnamese relations and even hurt the war effort. He therefore advised, according to the source, that Ky persuade Loan to dismiss Mai Den and stop publication of Cong Chung. Ky reportedly promised to talk with Loan but said he would have a difficult time persuading him to <sup>what</sup> Mai Den go, since he had tried this once before to no avail.

Khoi said he had already discussed the situation himself with Loan. Although Loan agreed that the Americans posed no real long-range threat to Vietnamese sovereignty, the two could reach no common ground on how to lessen shorter range frictions which result from the massive American presence. Loan reportedly told Khoi that Mai Den was a dedicated, clever intelligence officer who had done nothing worse than ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ criticize the US. Loan therefore felt it would be incongruous to fire his subordinate while others about whom Loan had evidence of some wrongdoing were kept on by their superiors.