

GAIN FOR FREEDOM IN 1965 REPORTED

U.S. Group Lauds Response Of Americans to Threats

The last 12 months have left "freedom stronger and more deeply rooted in most parts of the world" because of the vigorous United States response to threats at home and overseas, Freedom House reported yesterday in its annual report.

Titled the "1965 Balance Sheet of Freedom," the report said the "determination with which the American Government and people met the mounting Communist threat to South Vietnam strengthened the forces of freedom throughout Southeast Asia." Despite setbacks, the report asserted, "1965 left a legacy of hope."

Freedom House, which has headquarters at 20 West 40th Street, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study and promotion of freedom.

Communist influence, the report said, declined because of the widening breach between Moscow and Peking, which "not only kept these totalitarian superpowers from effective joint action but split local Communist movements all over the world."

"The new nations," it added, "became increasingly resistant to Communist anti-Western propaganda as they gained first-hand experience of subversion within their borders."

The report said the progress of freedom was impeded last year by clashes between India and Pakistan. "The specter of racial conflict loomed larger over Africa," it declared.

The report asserted that many Latin American nations "were still stumbling in their search for ways to combine democracy with economic stability." French nationalism, it said, weakened the Atlantic alliance and the Common Market.

Turning to the domestic scene, the report said a "historic series of new laws and administrative measures opened doors to broader freedoms for all." The United States, the report added, was moving in the direction of racial equality, "even if it still had a long way to go."

Touching on the debate on Vietnam by university groups, the report asserted that "the American people listened as both sides mustered their arguments and the overwhelming

majority—as shown by repeated checks of public opinion — swung to the support of the Administration position in Vietnam."

The report was issued on behalf of Freedom House's board of trustees by Dr. Harry D. Gideonse, president of the organization. It was prepared by the public affairs committee, which also included Leo Cherne, Roscoe Drummond, the Rev. George B. Ford, Elizabeth M. Riley, George Field, Eric Sevaireid, Rex Stout, Whitney North Seymour and Gerald L. Steibel.