

# Toynbee Calls U.S. Paranoid on Reds

By Sue Cronk

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Americans like to talk about freedom and selfdetermination, but the image they present to the rest of the world is that of a successor to the European colonial powers, Arnold Toynbee said yesterday.

"Americans are the only Western imperialists left, except for the Portuguese," the silver-haired historian said at a press conference in Meridian House.

Taking Viet-Nam as an example, Toynbee noted that "the moment French rule stopped, the people were ready for French culture. The Americans might do the same."

Toynbee thinks Americans are "a bit paranoid about communism."

"It's hard to understand why you make such a fuss about Castro," he said, comparing the Cuban-American situation to that of a mouse and

an elephant. "It's great fun for the mouse."

The 76-year-old philosopher, author last year of "Five Thousand Years of World History," sipped coffee and sherry as he discussed current history before lecturing last night at the State Department under the auspices of the Institute of Contemporary Arts.

A sampling of his views include:

- Atomic Age—"It is conceivable that America and Russia could be at war, were it not for atomic weapons. They have become more prudent than in the pre-atomic age, when there was a difference between those who won and those who lost. Now that both will be annihilated, it takes away the point of war."

- Racial turmoil — "As people become equally educated and civilized, racial differ-

## U.S. to Spruce Up Its Post Offices

Postmaster General John A. Gronouski has announced a sprucing up of the Nation's post offices as part of President Johnson's natural beauty program.

The spring cleaning efforts will be directed initially at the enhancement of post office grounds and the replacement of worn flags.

Gronouski has urged the Nation's 34,000 postmasters to seek the cooperation of garden clubs, chambers of commerce and other community groups in beautifying the grounds around government installations.

ences will matter less and less."

- Religion — "All religions have lost their hold. People don't believe in the same unquestioning way they used to. Doctrines don't quite fit present day situations."