



JCC STUDY GUIDE



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1.Words of Welcome from the Secretary General

Esteemed Delegates,

As your Secretary General, Nazlı Atalay, it is my high pleasure to welcome you all to our Joint Crisis Committee (JCC). Initially, I would like to extend my greatest thanks to each delegate for attending our conference and making it come true. Our team has worked endlessly day and night to achieve what we have today. I once again thank you all on behalf of my team and appreciate your attendance. It was such an amazing opportunity and experience to work together with such hardworking and amazing individuals. It is my most certain hope that this conference may be an amazing opportunity to discuss and hopefully solve the given challenges. Dear delegates, I wish for a conference in which each one of you actively engages and works together to combat challenging world issues.

CFLMUN'25, consists of 5 committees. Our academics team has worked day and night together to develop them. The agenda items for these committees have been specifically selected with well-thought discussions. For the Joint Crisis Committee, your topic has been selected as the Vietnam War. I wish for a committee which each and every delegate actively contributes to the debates and discusses important details. I, your Secretary General, will be the writer of your study guide. I hope my work guides you well thoroughly and makes each one of you fully comprehend the committee.

During each session, delegates will discuss inequalities, social, economic, political, and cultural spheres and widespread issues globally. The war affected the whole world though the experiences, manifestations, and consequences differ based on cultural, historical, and societal norms. The committee will mainly revolve around events and decisions regarding the Vietnam War.

Delegates, I sincerely wish you all a great experience and kindly ask each one of you to read and fully understand the study guide for a greater experience.

It is my most sincere hope that a conference which each and every delegate considerably understands and validates these events and challenges will occur. I once again sincerely ask all of you delegates to thoroughly read and understand our study guide. Our team has worked hard to create it in the most explanatory and comprehensive way we could. We wish to have interesting, productive debates supported by rich research of yours which all stick to the main ideas of the study guide. I request all delegates familiarize themselves with their own individuals' policies.

At last, I once again wish you all a great and productive conference experience. We are more than happy to welcome you all. If you do encounter any struggles while reading the study guide, please contact me via my email address for any kind of questions.

Kindest Regards,

Nazlı Atalay

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1. Introduction to the Committee

Joint Crisis Committees hold significant differences from General Assembly committees. One of the main differences is that the delegations are not large in scale and are not divided specifically into countries. Rather each country is divided into several delegates, and each delegate has a certain government ranking. There are specific two opposing countries and all elements in the ongoing debate contribute to the defeat of the opposing side. The government officials will work on the given crisis at hand and start to form solutions accordingly. Another difference is that the debate format is not formal and rather revolving around a resolution they revolve around a specific crisis event. Also instead of resolutions, directives are debated on. The crisis is different for each conference and is given to the delegates beforehand. In the committee, the chairs will act as a “crisis information centre” and are not necessarily in the same position as in the GA committees. It must be kept in mind that the committee is in constant crisis and alert mode, therefore, it helps delegates to recreate the conditions that help actual delegates create commentary solutions.

The JCC, since it is a unique committee it has different rules and procedures compared to regular committees also it has motions that are not in GA committees. They can be listed as Motion to Introduce Directive, and Motion to Introduce Declaration of War. The latter also has a special proposal format. These formats contribute to the fast-paced and crisis-oriented environment of the committee. Also, they require previous directives in order to be debated on. There are some special rules which include; right to permit assassination and address military action, the speech right of the chair (in which the chair can also give a speech just like a delegate, however, cannot vote), speech in the third person is not required and delegates may refer to each other with last name basis. With all of these attributions, the JCC is truly a different and exceptional committee.

Being quite parallel to GA committees, the main communication between delegates during debates revolve around note-papers, however, two main titles; meeting and press conferences are unique to JCC committees. The delegates of the JCC committee are permitted to hold meetings between delegates whilst the current crisis is ongoing. Also can be permitted to hold and issue press conferences. In these conferences, they voice their opinions to the public.

Although it may seem like a rigorous committee, with good preparation it can be easily done. Some possible tips include;

- a. Intense preparation and good research. This is specifically important since the committee requires instant communication and is always in an ongoing debate.

- b. It is mandatory that all delegates should clearly know their countries policies and their delegation positions requirements and should act accordingly throughout the committee. This is specifically beneficial for delegates who are wanting to give speeches and debate on the given crisis extensively.
- c. In most conferences JCC committees are filled with highly experienced and well-rounded delegates, however, this must not be a fearing factor. To be prepared, writing several position papers would be helpful.
- d. It may be helpful to some delegates/countries to be more prone to forming coalitions with other countries, therefore learning about other countries' policies can also be beneficial.
- e. All delegates should start thinking about possible solutions for the given crisis and start thinking about proposing statements in the debate that is going to be held in the committee.

1.1. Historical Background

The Vietnam War was a long, costly and divisive conflict that pitted the communist government of North Vietnam against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. The conflict was intensified by the ongoing Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. More than 3 million people (including over 58,000 Americans) were killed in the Vietnam War, and more than half of the dead were Vietnamese civilians.

- **French Colonization of Indochina**

Indochina, the three countries of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia formerly associated with France, first within its empire and later within the French Union. The term Indochina refers to the intermingling of Indian and Chinese influences in the culture of the region. After gradually establishing suzerainty over Indochina between 1858 and 1893, the French created the first Indochinese Union to govern it.



French Indochina was a group of Southeast Asian regions colonized by France from 1887 to mid-1900s. The French exploited local resources like rubber, rice, and minerals, heavily taxing the population. Japan briefly took control during World War II, leading to independence movements in the region.

They designated the area as a "colonie d'exploitation," or in the more polite English translation, a "colony of economic interests." High taxes on local consumption of goods like salt, opium, and rice alcohol filled the coffers of the French colonial government, with just those three items comprising 44% of the government's budget by 1920.

With the local population's wealth almost tapped out, the French began in the 1930s to turn to exploiting the area's natural resources instead. What is now Vietnam became a rich source of zinc, tin, and coal as well as cash crops such as rice, rubber, coffee, and tea. Cambodia supplied pepper, rubber, and rice; Laos, however, had no valuable mines and was used only for low-level timber harvesting.

The availability of plentiful, high-quality rubber led to the establishment of famous French tire companies such as Michelin. France even invested in industrialization in Vietnam, building factories to produce cigarettes, alcohol, and textiles for export.

The Japanese Empire invaded French Indochina in 1941 and the Nazi-allied French Vichy government handed over Indochina to Japan. During their occupation, some Japanese military officials encouraged nationalism and independence movements in the region. However, the military higher-ups and the home government in Tokyo intended to keep Indochina as a valuable source of such necessities as tin, coal, rubber, and rice.

- **Rise of Vietnamese Nationalism**

It soon became obvious to most Indochinese citizens that the Japanese intended to exploit them and their land just as ruthlessly as the French had done. This sparked the creation of a new guerrilla fighting force, the League for the Independence of Vietnam.

To fight off both Japanese occupiers and its Vichy French colonial administration, Vietnamese revolutionary Ho Chi Minh – inspired by Chinese and Soviet communism – formed the Viet Minh in 1941, a communist resistance movement. Their opposition to the Japanese meant they received support from the US, China and the Soviet Union.



In August 1945, near the end of the war and with Japan's attention completely diverted, the Viet Minh conquered Hanoi in what became known as the August Revolution. Emperor Bao Dai abdicated his throne in late August, and just a week later, on September 2, the Japanese signed a formal surrender to end World War II.

Upon Japan's defeat, Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam to be independent, naming the country the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV). The French did not recognize Ho's declaration, however. French forces returned to Vietnam and drove the Viet Minh into the north of the country but were unable to penetrate farther.

The First Indochina War

The First Indochina War (generally known as the Indochina War in France, and as the Anti-French Resistance War in Vietnam, and alternatively internationally as the French-Indochina War) was fought between France and Việt Minh (Democratic Republic of Vietnam), and their respective allies, from 19 December 1946 until 21 July 1954. Việt Minh was led by Võ Nguyên Giáp and Hồ Chí Minh. Most of the fighting took place in Tonkin in Northern

Vietnam, although the conflict engulfed the entire country and also extended into the neighboring French Indochina protectorates of Laos and Cambodia.



- Here is what happened:

An “independent” Vietnam with Emperor Bao Dai as nominal ruler is proclaimed by Japanese occupation authorities.

The Communist-dominated Viet Minh Independence League seized power. Ho Chi Minh established the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (GRDV) in Hanoi.

French troops return to Vietnam and clash with Communist and Nationalist forces.

France recognized the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as a free state within the Indochinese Federation and French Union.

The Viet Minh initiated the eight-year Indochina War with an attack on French troops in the north.

France recognizes an “independent” state of Vietnam, Bao Dai becomes its leader in June.

Laos is recognized as an independent state with ties to France.

Cambodia is recognized as an independent state with no ties to France.

The newly-established People’s Republic of China, followed by the Soviet Union, recognizes the Democratic Republic of Vietnam led by Ho Chi Minh.

The US announces military and economic aid to the pro-French regimes of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Remnants of the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu surrender.

Ngo Dinh Diem, newly-chosen Premier of South Vietnam, completes the organization of his cabinet.

The Geneva Agreements are signed, partitioning Vietnam along the 17th Parallel and setting up an International Control Commission to supervise compliance with the Agreements

An agreement is signed at Manila establishing a Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, aimed at checking Communist expansion.

The last French troops left Hanoi.

The Viet Minh formally assumed control over North Vietnam.

- Victory in the anti-colonial war (fought against the French between 1945 and 1954, and supported by US aid) saw Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia granted independence. Vietnam was split North and South, and by 1958 the communist north (Vietcong) were conducting military operations across the border.

- **Vietnam's Division**

From 1954 to 1975 Vietnam was divided into two countries, North Vietnam (the Democratic Republic of Vietnam) and South Vietnam (the Republic of Vietnam). After its defeat at Dien Dien Phu, France signed an independence agreement with the victorious Viet Minh in Geneva. Vietnam would be divided by a demilitarised zone (the DMZ), with the French withdrawing their forces from Vietnam north of the zone and the Viet Minh withdrawing their forces from the south. An associated declaration stated that after the troop withdrawals an election would be held for the reunification of the country.

This provision was never agreed to by the South Vietnamese or the United States, and the reunification election was not held. South Vietnam had been effectively independent since May 1954, and Ngo Dinh Diem declared it a republic after he became president through a questionable election in 1955. South Vietnam was heavily backed by the US, which saw it as a bulwark against communism. Before long Diem's authoritarian regime was challenged by local communists, backed by the regime in North Vietnam.

Peace was discussed at Geneva in 1954 and the Treaty of Geneva agreed that the French would leave Vietnam and the country would be split along the 17th Parallel until elections could be held.

The elections were never held and the country remained divided:

North Vietnam was a communist republic led by Ho Chi Minh.

South Vietnam was a capitalist republic led by Ngo Dinh Diem.

1.2. Causes of the Vietnam War

- **Spread of Communism**

The Vietminh wanted to unite the country under communist leader Ho Chi Minh. Many of the South Vietnamese people supported Ho Chi Minh as they were unhappy with Ngo Dinh Diem.

War broke out between the North and South. From 1958 onwards, the South came under increasing attacks from communists in South Vietnam itself. They were called the National Liberation Front (NLF).

- **Domino Theory**

This was the belief that if one country fell to communism, it was likely that the neighbouring one would also fall, similar to a row of dominoes falling over.

This had happened in Eastern Europe after 1945. China had become communist in 1949 and communists were in control of North Vietnam.

The USA was afraid that communism would spread to South Vietnam and then the rest of Asia. It decided to send money, supplies and military advisers to help the South Vietnamese Government.

- **The Weak South Vietnam Government**

Diem was a corrupt leader who refused to give peasants land. He did not like Buddhism and treated the mainly Buddhist population badly. As a result, much of South Vietnam's population was rebelling against him. The peasants wanted communism and supported the Vietminh and the NLF.

In 1963, President John F Kennedy sent 16,000 military 'advisers' to help the South Vietnamese army. Diem's Government was overthrown. After this, there was no strong capitalist government in control of the South.

- **Gulf of Tonkin Incident**

On 2nd August 1964, North Vietnamese boats attacked a US Navy destroyer, the USS Maddox, patrolling in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Another attack on the Maddox was reported to have taken place on 4th August. Weather conditions were poor and there was doubt as to whether a real attack had taken place.

However in Washington the attack was presented as a fact and the incident gave the USA the excuse it needed to escalate the war.

US Secretary of Defence, Robert McNamara, withheld information about US support of South Vietnamese raids on North Vietnamese radar stations and other targets in the period leading up to the attack. Other evidence that suggested the second attack had not occurred was not passed on to the US Congress.

Gulf of Tonkin Resolution - US Congress gave President Lyndon Johnson permission to wage war on North Vietnam. The first major contingent of US Marines arrived in 1965.

For the next ten years the USA's involvement increased. By 1968 over half a million American troops were in Vietnam and the war was costing \$77 billion a year.

2. Major Players and Groups Involved

COMMUNIST BLOC

- **Viet Cong**

The Viet Cong (VC) was an epithet and umbrella term to refer to the communist-driven armed movement and united front organization in South Vietnam. It was formally organized as and led by the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, and conducted military operations under the name of the Liberation Army of South Vietnam (LASV). The movement fought under the direction of North Vietnam against the South Vietnamese and United States governments during the Vietnam War. The organization had both guerrilla and regular army units, as well as a network of cadres who organized and mobilized peasants in the territory the VC controlled. During the war, communist fighters and some anti-war activists claimed that the VC was an insurgency indigenous to the South that represented the legitimate rights of people in South Vietnam, while the U.S. and South Vietnamese governments portrayed the group as a tool of North Vietnam. It was later conceded by the modern Vietnamese communist leadership that the movement was actually under the North Vietnamese political and military leadership, aiming to unify Vietnam under a single banner.

Although the Viet Cong started out as a loose grouping of guerrilla fighters, they increased markedly in professionalism and in numbers over the course of the conflict. The Viet Cong were supported and trained by the government of communist North Vietnam.

- **Ho Chi Minh, President of North Vietnam**

Among 20th-century revolutionaries, Ho waged the longest and most costly battle against the colonial system of the great powers. One of its effects was to cause a grave crisis in the national life of the mightiest of capitalist countries, the United States. As a Marxist, Ho stands with the Yugoslav leader Tito as one of the progenitors of the “national communism” that developed in the 1960s and (at least partially) with communist China’s Mao Zedong in emphasizing the role of the peasantry in the revolutionary struggle.

- **Le Duan, General Secretary of Communist Party, North Vietnam**

Le Duan was a founding member of the Indochina Communist Party in 1930. Twice imprisoned by the French, he joined the Viet Minh, Ho Chi Minh’s anti-French communist-led front, and attained an influential position on the Central Committee of Ho’s new Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi in 1945. After Vietnam’s division in 1954, Le Duan was put in charge of establishing an underground Communist Party organization in South Vietnam. He thus oversaw the creation in 1962 of the People’s Revolutionary Party, a crucial component of the National Liberation Front.

- **Vo Nguyen Giap, Top Military Commander, North Vietnam**

Vo Nguyen Giap (born 1912, An Xa, Vietnam—died October 4, 2013, Hanoi) was a Vietnamese military and political leader whose perfection of guerrilla as well as conventional strategy and tactics led to the Viet Minh victory over the French (and to the end of French colonialism in Southeast Asia) and later to the North Vietnamese victory over South Vietnam and the United States.

- **Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister, North Vietnam**

Phạm Văn Đồng was a Vietnamese politician who served as Prime Minister of North Vietnam from 1955 to 1976. He later served as Prime Minister of Vietnam following reunification of North and South Vietnam from 1976 until he retired in 1987 under the rule of Lê Duẩn and Nguyễn Văn Linh. He was considered one of Hồ Chí Minh's closest lieutenants.

- **Le Duc Tho, Diplomatic Strategist, North Vietnam**

Tho is best known for his part in the cease-fire of 1973, when he served as special adviser to the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris Peace Conferences in 1968–73. He eventually became his delegation’s principal spokesman, in which capacity he negotiated with Kissinger, the U.S. national security adviser, the cease-fire agreement that led to the withdrawal of the last

American troops from South Vietnam. It was for this accomplishment that he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

- **Nguyen Huu Tho, Viet Cong Chairman**

When Ngo Dinh Diem was elected president after South Vietnam turned into a republic, Nguyen Huu Tho initially cooperated with Ngo Dinh Diem, but they parted ways after he was imprisoned for promoting reunification. After a dramatic escape from prison in 1961, he became the head of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front (aka Viet Cong).

- **Pham Hung, Political Commissar, Viet Cong**

He was closely allied with Lê Duẩn who by early 1964 had become the effective leader of North Vietnam. Lê Duẩn and his supporters adopted a more belligerent approach to the armed struggle in South Vietnam in contrast to moderates such as Ho Chi Minh and Võ Nguyên Giáp.

- **Andrei Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister**

Andrei Gromyko was a prominent Soviet diplomat and statesman, born in 1909 in Starye Gromyki, Belarus. Educated in agricultural technology and economics, he entered the Soviet diplomatic service in the late 1930s, leveraging his expertise on the American economy. Gromyko became the Soviet ambassador to the United States in 1943, participating in key Allied negotiations during World War II. His role extended to the United Nations, where he garnered nicknames like "Mr. No" for his frequent vetoes representing the Soviet position. Over his long career, Gromyko served as the Soviet foreign minister from 1957 until 1985, playing a vital role in pivotal events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and arms control treaties. Despite often downplaying his influence on foreign policy, Gromyko was a key figure during the Cold War, especially during periods of leadership instability.

- **Marshal Sergey Sokolov, Soviet Military Advisor**

Sergey Leonidovich Sokolov was a Soviet military commander, Hero of the Soviet Union, and served as Minister of Defence of the Soviet Union from 22 December 1984 until 29 May 1987.

- **Zhou Enlai, China Representative**

Zhou Enlai maintained a close personal relationship with North Vietnam's leaders, including Ho Chi Minh and Le Duan, and was committed to supporting their struggle against U.S. imperialism.

US & SOUTH VIETNAM BLOC

- **Ngo Dinh Diem, President of South Vietnam**

Diem defeated BaoDai in a government-controlled referendum in October 1955, ousted the emperor, and made himself president of South Vietnam. Diem refused to carry out the 1954 Geneva Accords, which had called for free elections to be held throughout Vietnam in 1956 in order to establish a national government. With the south torn by dissident groups and political factions, Diem established an autocratic regime that was staffed at the highest levels by members of his own family.

Diem, assisted by U.S. military and economic aid, was able to resettle hundreds of thousands of refugees from North Vietnam in the south, but his own Catholicism and the preference he showed for fellow Roman Catholics made him unacceptable to Buddhists, who were an overwhelming majority in South Vietnam. Diem never fulfilled his promise of land reforms, and during his rule communist influence and appeal grew among southerners as the communist-inspired National Liberation Front, or Viet Cong, launched an increasingly intense guerrilla war against his government. The military tactics Diem used against the insurgency were heavy-handed and ineffective and served only to deepen his government's unpopularity and isolation.

Diem's imprisoning and, often, killing of those who expressed opposition to his regime—whom he alleged were abetting communist insurgents—further alienated the South Vietnamese populace, notably Buddhists, who increasingly protested Diem's discrimination against them. Matters with the Buddhists came to a head in 1963 when, after government forces killed several people at a May rally celebrating the Buddha's birthday, Buddhists began staging large protest rallies, and three monks and a nun immolated themselves. Those actions finally persuaded the United States to withdraw its support from Diem, and his generals assassinated him during a coup d'état. The delegate of Diem will be assassinated within a planned crisis and their role will be replaced as Duong Van Minh.

- **Duong Van Minh, Military General, South Vietnam**

Duong Van Minh, often referred to as "Big Minh," was a military leader who briefly served as President of South Vietnam on three separate occasions, making him one of the country's most politically turbulent figures. He first became president after the coup that ousted Ngô Đình Diệm in 1963, though his presidency lasted only a few days. After another period of instability, Minh returned to power in 1964, but again faced immense political and military challenges, leading to his second ouster in 1965. Minh's final tenure as president came during the collapse of South Vietnam in 1975, when he assumed the role for a brief period just before the fall of Saigon to North

Vietnamese forces. As the last president of South Vietnam, Minh famously surrendered to the victorious North Vietnamese on April 30, 1975, marking the end of the Vietnam War and the reunification of Vietnam under communist rule.

- **Nguyen Khanh, Military Officer, South Vietnam**

Nguyen Khanh was a military officer and a key figure in the early years of the Republic of Vietnam. He came to power after the military coup that ousted Duong Van Minh in 1964, serving as president for a brief but significant period. Khanh's leadership was marked by political instability and infighting within the military ranks. Despite his initial popularity and the backing of the United States, Khanh's tenure was fraught with internal division and military factionalism. His efforts to stabilize the government were undermined by rival factions, and he was eventually ousted in 1965 by another military coup. Khanh's brief presidency was part of a larger trend of military juntas and instability in South Vietnam, contributing to the overall chaos that would eventually lead to the fall of the South Vietnamese government.

- **Nguyen Cao Ky, Vice President**

Nguyễn Cao Kỳ was a Vietnamese military officer and politician who served as the chief of the Republic of Vietnam Air Force in the 1960s, before leading the nation as the prime minister of South Vietnam in a military junta from 1965 to 1967. Then, until his retirement from politics in 1971, he served as vice president to bitter rival General Nguyễn Văn Thiệu, in a nominally civilian administration.

- **Nguyen Van Thieu, Chief of State, South Vietnam**

Following Diệm's death, there were several short-lived juntas as coups occurred frequently. Thiệu gradually moved up the ranks of the junta by adopting a cautious approach while other officers around him defeated and sidelined one another. In 1965, stability came to South Vietnam when he became the figurehead head of state, while Air Marshal Nguyễn Cao Kỳ became prime minister, although the men were rivals.

In 1967, a transition to elected government was scheduled; and, after a power struggle within the military, Thiệu ran for the presidency with Kỳ as his running mate—both men had wanted the top job. To allow the two to work together, their fellow officers had agreed to have a military body controlled by Kỳ shape policy behind the scenes. Leadership tensions became evident, and Thiệu prevailed, sidelining Kỳ supporters from key military and cabinet posts. Thiệu then passed legislation to restrict candidacy eligibility for the 1971 election, banning almost all would-be opponents, while the rest withdrew as it was obvious that the poll would be a sham; Thiệu won 100% of the vote and the election was uncontested, while Kỳ retired from politics.

- **Lyndon B. Johnson, US President** For Johnson, the decision to continue the Vietnam commitment followed the path of his predecessors. He was committed to maintaining an independent South Vietnam and to achieving success in Southeast Asia. As a senator, he had embraced "containment theory," which predicted that if Vietnam fell to Communists, other Southeast Asian nations would do the same. Johnson was deeply sensitive about the judgment of history, and he did not want to be remembered as a President who lost Southeast Asia to Communism.

On February 13, 1965, Johnson authorized Rolling Thunder, the sustained bombing of North Vietnam. On March 8, 1965, two Marine battalions, 3,500 troops, went ashore near Da Nang to protect the airfields, with orders to shoot only if shot at—this was the first time U.S. combat forces had been sent to mainland Asia since the Korean War. On April 3, Johnson authorized two additional Marine battalions, one Marine air squadron, and an increase in logistical support units of 20,000 men. He also authorized troops to go on active "search and destroy" missions. By mid-April, Marines had moved to full-scale offensive operations. By November 1965, there were 175,000 troops and by 1966, an additional 100,000. The number would surge to 535,000 by the end of Johnson's presidency.

- **Richard Nixon, Head of State, US**

Richard M. Nixon, president after Johnson, assumed responsibility for the Vietnam War as he swore the oath of office on January 20, 1969. He knew that ending this war honorably was essential to his success in the presidency. He expected that the American people would give him a year to end U.S. involvement in the war, and he expected to succeed during that time—believing that his experience in foreign relations, his toughness, and his willingness to bring to bear military and political pressure on North Vietnam would yield a settlement in the public negotiations just opening in Paris.

- **Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense, US**

McNamara oversaw the massive escalation of American troops in Vietnam as Secretary of Defense under Lyndon Johnson. He vigorously encouraged Johnson to escalate the United States's involvement in the war through the use of technology. For instance, he proposed that obsolete weapons systems be immediately discarded and replaced by modern counterparts. Additionally, he encouraged spreading the use of technology to local troops. McNamara's actions and perspectives resulted in Operation Rolling Thunder. This operation was the drastic increase of American military technology in Vietnam, including bombers and other aircraft. McNamara desired to intimidate the communists in South Vietnam from continuing their fight against the

government and American interests. The Viet Cong were the main group of Vietnamese communist insurgents in South Vietnam. The Air Force and Navy combined their forces to continuously bomb Viet Cong camps as well as the forces of Hồ Chí Minh.

One of the most important documents regarding the perspectives and actions of McNamara is a memorandum he sent to Johnson in 1965. This document outlined three options available in regard to the Vietnam War. The first option was to surrender, which McNamara discarded. The second was to maintain the status quo and only keep the existing military in Vietnam. The third choice, which McNamara convinced Johnson to pursue, was to commit more troops to Vietnam. This memorandum was one of the most important factors in Johnson's decision to continue American military involvement in the Vietnam War.

- **Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, US**

Dean Rusk served as U.S. secretary of state from 1961 to 1969. During that period of service under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, he was a primary architect of U.S. intervention in the Vietnam War on the side of the South Vietnamese.

- **General William Westmoreland, U.S. Military Commander in Vietnam**

William Westmoreland commanded U.S. forces in the Vietnam War from 1964 to 1968. He treated the conflict as a war of attrition, which diminished domestic support. In December 1956 he was promoted to major general; at 42 years old, he was then the youngest person holding that rank in the U.S. Army.

- **Park Chung-hee, South Korean President**

South Korea, which was at the time an hybrid regime under its right-wing president Park Chung Hee, took a major active role in the Vietnam War. The Korean War just a decade prior was still fresh on the minds of the South Korean people, and the threat from North Korea was still very real.

From September 1964 to March 1973, South Korea sent some 350,000 troops to South Vietnam. The South Korean Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force all participated as an ally of the United States. The number of troops from South Korea was much greater than those from Australia and New Zealand, and second only to the U.S. military force for foreign troops located in South Vietnam.

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