

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 1965.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

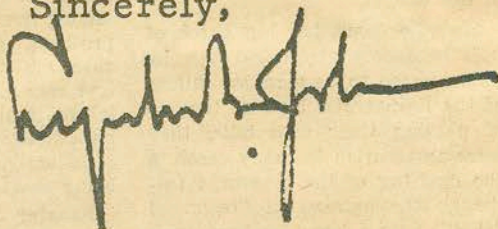
July 19, 1965

Gentlemen:

I believe your statement in support of the policy of the United States toward Vietnam reflects the strong opinion of most Americans. What you say has increased importance from your long and courageous record of opposition to all forms of tyranny.

I am grateful for the position stated in your Credo of Support and I hope that others who feel as you may be willing to join in this expression. Effective public support of our national purpose in Vietnam will hasten the coming of the peace which is our common purpose.

Sincerely,



1. Our withdrawal from Vietnam under present circumstances cannot be sustained on moral grounds. Such a decision would be morally indefensible. Having freely accepted responsibility as a world power and a champion of freedom, the United States would dishonor that role by defaulting on its promises and commitments. Such default would not only abandon men, women and children to cruel reprisals; it would seriously undermine the credibility of our commitments to other nations.

2. The decision to halt Communist aggression—whether in Vietnam, Laos or the Congo—is clearly in the interest of the United States and the other nations of the free world.

3. We welcome the recognition of a common interest which has prompted Australia, New Zealand and South Korea to take an active part in the present struggle. We hope other allies will join in the defense of free world areas threatened by Communist "wars of national liberation."

4. The United States is not embarked on a military crusade against Communist nations. Our record in dealing with the Iron Curtain nations of Europe and living peaceably with their Communist-controlled societies is our credential.

5. It is equally important to recognize that our military effort is only part of the substantial U.S. program to enlarge the economic, social and political future of the Vietnamese people.

6. We regret the world is still racked by force rather than run by reason. But we also see no hope for reason until the force of lawlessness is checked. Our troops and arms are not mere engines of destruction; they are instruments of prevention. We mean to use them as judiciously as possible. But we do mean to use them effectively.

There is nothing new in what we confront today, either in the challenge from the aggressor or in the timid voices that would yield. Nor is there any blinking the fact that the necessary responses are both difficult and dangerous. The very nature of the great challenges we as a nation must face requires not only wise decisions but prompt and effective action. We believe the present policy of the United States meets these tests and deserves the whole-hearted support of the American people.



FREEDOM HOUSE
WILLKIE MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

I approve your Credo of Support for our national purpose in Vietnam. I am also interested in your new book—FREEDOM'S ADVOCATE—and other Freedom House literature.

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