



United States Senate

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Dear :

We have gotten into such a welter of confusion over objectives, advice, and other descriptive words concerning what should or should not be done in the Viet Nam situation and I believe both sides have made crystal clear just how they feel.

I do not believe there is any responsible official in public life who is not agitated and distressed over the situation and over the sacrifice which young Americans are called upon to make.

Long ago however -- in fact as far back as 1950 -- we made some commitments to the people of Viet Nam and pledged our aid if it was requested in order to turn back communist aggression and preserve the freedom and independence of that small country.

It is dishonouring indeed that at different times in our history these pledges had to be carried out in terms of young blood and great expenditures of money. When such occasions arise there is no choice save to call on the young men of the country able to perform military service to carry out these pledges, and that is precisely what is happening in Viet Nam. If it were not there, it would probably be in some other place unless we choose to sit on freedom's sideline and permit the communist forces to take over all of Southeast Asia.

I do appreciate receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

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