

Teacher

what phrases from these documents show why we needed to enter Vietnam

Excerpt from a Letter written by U.S. President John F. Kennedy to President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam: December 14, 1961

Dear Mr. President,

intentional
I have received your recent letter in which you described so cogently (clearly) the dangerous conditions caused by North Vietnam's effort to take over your country... We have been deeply disturbed by the assault on your country... the deliberate savagery of the Communist programs of assassination, kidnapping, and wanton violence became clear.

In response to your request, we are prepared to help the Republic of (South) Vietnam to protect its people and preserve its independence. We shall promptly increase our assistance to your defense effort as well as help relieve the destruction...which you describe. I have already given the orders to get these programs underway.

The United States, like the Republic of (South) Vietnam, remains devoted to the cause of peace and our primary purpose is to help your people maintain their independence.

The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964

decided
Whereas the United States is assisting the peoples of southeast Asia to protect their freedom and has no territorial, military, or political ambitions in that area, but desires only that these people should be left in peace to work out their destinies in their own way: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress approves and supports the determination of the President, as Commander in Chief, to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of United States and to prevent further aggression.