

**Will of Vietnam's  
People Disregarded**

To the Editor:

The United States is pursuing a course which, if continued, will foster a new "domino effect" in Southeast Asia as one and another of the safeguards of peace fall by the wayside. This does not have to be inevitable.

A reference to the history of the region will reveal continuous pressure by China on the lands of Southeast Asia. This is pressure which has persisted for literally thousands of years. At times successful, it has regularly been repulsed by the inhabitants of Indochina.

This is, in other words, a traditional Chinese action; the struggle took on its cold-war aspects only when legitimate nationalist feeling was frustrated by Western insensitivity after World War II. Our position in this matter has hardened in stubborn disregard of the will of the Vietnamese people. The obvious successes of the Vietcong guerrillas in South Vietnam would have been impossible if the Vietnamese people did not accept or at least tolerate their activities.

By continued disregard of the opinions of the people of Vietnam (you will notice I did not say Government) and of the rest of the world, the issue will become one of absolutes. The possibility of a creative solution will be erased.

Fear of negotiation would seem to indicate a lack of confidence in the bases of our political philosophy. I suggest that faith in government of, by and for the people should provide us the "position of strength" we seem to value as a prerequisite for negotiation.

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