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"Beginnings (1945-64)" are quite unacceptable. Particularly disappointing was the display of the profound ignorance and fool hardiness of many individuals in our government. Many if not all, recounts of President Johnson represent him as an badly informed, prideful man and nearly every account of Secretary McNamara was negative in nature. Two stories that seem the most credible and the most condemning of our government actions were actually written by individuals working for the government in some official capacity. Paul Kattenburg relayed events in his story that are very disappointing and have a ring of truth that is impossible to deny. He stated in his recollection of his fateful National Security Council meeting "What struck me more than anything was just the abysmal ignorance around the table of the particular facts of Vietnam... It was robot thinking about Communism"(Appy p. 82). Despite his familiarity with the Vietnam situation and his many reports on the true undeniable facts about the atmosphere in Vietnam, he was ignored, and despite his professional opinion to withdraw, the National Security Council decided to proceed. Evelyn Colbert worked for the Southeast Asia Division of the Bureau of Intelligence Research related in her story that despite cold hard facts government officials continued to plow ahead with the Vietnam debacle. She stated " McNamara now says we didn't know anything about Vietnam and what was really happening was not understood. That's a lot of garbage. We would come out with papers showing that things were going very badly indeed." (Appy p.83). The blindness of our government to logic and statistical evidence that could have been used to prevent waste of lives and funds is by far the most disappointing aspect of Part two.

There is usually always a silver lining. Although many of the stories portray a negative side of the individuals involved in the war there are examples of good intentions and goodness. Henry Prunier was one of the first Americans to be involved in Vietnams. He was part of the teams that went into Vietnam near the end of World War II to train the Vietnamese including Ho Chi Minh. His portrayal of the initial interactions between America and Vietnam showed a possibility had once existed of peace between our two nations. Most profound was the recount was the way Ho Chi Minh was initially viewed. Prunier related " At one point someone asked him(Ho Chi Minh) directly if he was a Communist and he said, 'Yes, I'm a

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