

Due date: Sunday, 9 October 2011, 11:55 PM

Last edited: Sunday, 9 October 2011, 06:57 PM (526 words)

Part one

"I was stuck in a tunnel for seven days"

I found TRAN THI GUNG's "Ginger" story compelling. It isn't the norm to picture a female guerilla. I always have questioned why a person would choose a government mandated life over the freedom I hold dear. The photograph she shared was the biggest reason I found her account believable. That along with the personal motivations, (the death of her father and his comrades) solely due to his beliefs and politics. Also the childhood friend that she showed mercy, that coupled with her named citation of bravery and patriotism. Gingers story brought home to me a parallel understanding. She was defending and protecting her way of life. In the same way that an American G.I. might choose to go to a far-away land to prevent an ideology such as communism from knocking on his american door dictating their way of life.

Part two

"Whats good for Peru is good for Vietnam"

I chose this account of Paul Kattenburg because i've often wondered about the reputation we americans have in other countries, specifically a term I've heard many times "Ugly Amercans". I still don't know its roots but after this reading I have flashed on it many times. Kattenburg from my point of view had the best of knowledge of the Vietnamilies people, their culture, religions and traditions. I criticize the arrogance of the National Security Council as a whole. First, for not seeing the advantage of respect for your opponent. Sec-

only, for not updating their council members but instead who knew communism from a European experience i.e; WWII. Thirdly, being a junior member with such potentially valuable information about Vietnam. Having an invitation to such a meeting only to have his extensive knowledge be put on the back burner. These ridiculous men who would decide the fate of so many Americans with what I perceive as total disregard and no real earnest to make strategically good decisions about our role in a foreign land is inexcusable to me. Ignoring the French's defeat and not recognizing the Vietnamese disinterest in fighting at all. Choosing to propagandize the American citizens, rather than tell some truth (had they bothered to know Vietnam the country or its people) perhaps we would have gone in better or left better regardless of the outcome.

Part two Paragraph two

As for the positive side of things, Paul Kattenburg is to me a true Patriot. His courage to speak to the N.S.C as a junior member, ignoring protocol and at obvious risk to future political reputation and prestige. Displays such bravery. I find it Patriotic, enlightening and it moves me that a man who practiced the freedom of speech that we possess in this country and all though he was demoted as it were and not respected as he should have been. Still I like to think that he sleeps peacefully at night. Knowing that he did his best to enlighten us about a little country, Vietnam.

Close this window

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)