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In the initial section of the Patriots text the interview with Tran Thi Gung (pg 15-19) stood out distinctly. Tran fought bravely for her people and country; her story is both candid and poignant. The information she provided about the war, from the revolutionaries' point of view, appeared reliable. Tran related her experiences in a very clear and frank manner. Her credibility, due to personal experience, is undeniable. She viewed first hand, as a participant, the poverty and desperation of her people and the battle tactics of life in the Chu Chi tunnels. Her story was a well balanced blend of personal experience and factual information.

In part two there were a number of interviews which were very disappointing, mostly due to the lack of understanding and conscience of major leaders described by the interviewees and occasionally the interviewees themselves. Richard Olson's (pg 62-64) exhibited a disturbing lack of regard for the seriousness of his position in Vietnam; he speaks of it with seeming fondness, as if it had been a sport. The interview with John Singlaub (pgs. 90-94), was somewhat disturbing. During his interview Singlaub described anti-war protestors as "traitors", seemed to have an almost gleeful regard toward killing (pg. 93 para.3), and compared American "advisors" in Vietnam to missionaries or frontiersmen fighting/converting the Native Americans.

There are also numerous positive lessons to be drawn from this section. The interviews often described acts of compassion and intercultural understanding and wisdom (even if gained after the fact). The interviews with

Sergei Khrushchev (pgs. 87-89) and Malcolm Brown (pgs. 64-65) present very different but very relevant examples of hope, conscience, and decency during the war and the attempt to understand it after.

One of the positive (instructive) lessons that can be drawn from both the first and second section is the importance of perspective in understanding the full scope of the Vietnam War. The final quote on pg. 43 is an excellent example of how critical perspective can be. After the discussions held in the mid-nineties in Hanoi McNamara stated that, "We need to draw lessons [from the Vietnam War] which allow us to avoid such tragedies..." Vo Nguyen Giap responded, "Lessons are important. I agree. However, you are wrong to call the war a 'tragedy'. Maybe it was a tragedy for you, but for us the war was a noble sacrifice..."

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