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A NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM ?

I think that a person could talk about numerous themes from this section. One thing that stuck with me is "Vietnam", was the north and south divided by ideology? Was there a North and South Vietnam or was the country divided by westerners to suit their needs/desires? I don't think that the average peasant even knew their country was divided. The US should have let Vietnam unify itself before trying to stop the spread of communism. Our tactics turned people who had no williness or want to fight into fighters, or at the very least willing to help the Communist armies in all of its forms.

"They Slept At Our House" (pg.279) Paul Warnke

We fought the war for a separate South Vietnam, but there wasn't any South and there never was one. I think that was our big mistake. We used to talk about nation-building, but no outside force is going to build a nation. There just wasn't a government there in South Vietnam that had had any popular support. We had great difficulty coming to that conclusion. So I had very serious doubts as to whether there was any thing we could do effectively to bring about an independent, non-Communist South Vietnam.

AIR WAR (pg.202) Christian Appy

Almost 75 percent of all American sorties were flown in South Vietnam where four million tons of bombs were dropped, four times the amount dropped on North Vietnam..... The fear and suffering produced by US bombing, far from crushing the Vietnamese will to fight, did as much as any single factor to generate anti-American hostility. When family members died in bombing strikes, Vietnamese did not need Communist propaganda to persuade them that the United States was a foreign aggressor. And in the South, villagers were often confronted with the contradiction that their land was being bombed by the very people who claimed to be protecting them from external Communist aggression.

Morale Boosters (pg.192) Vu Hy Thieu

We bought our paper from people in strategic hamlets. Every night we infiltrated those hamlets to buy supplies. The strategic hamlet program was designed to isolate the people from us and turn them against us. We had to explain to them why we opposed the program and the crimes of the enemy. Some of us would give political talks while others would buy supplies, and I would draw posters to inform people of the victories won by the Liberation Army or to mobilize people to rise up and overthrow the government.

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