

Due date: Saturday, 17 October 2009, 09:10 PM

Last edited: Saturday, 17 October 2009, 08:29 PM (432 words)

After reading the required text, I would have to say two stories kept coming back to me. The first was Paul Kattenburgs and Chester Coopers. The thing that disappointed and frustrated me in their stories would be that the people that were above them did not know much about Vietnam or its heritage. In Kattenburg's story, he had insight about Ngo Dinh Diem that spans ten years and knew more about what was going on in Vietnam than the National Security Council Executive Committee. I also found it frustrating that they would not listen to Kattenburg when he answered their question with that he thought that they should pull out. The council seemed to just dismiss his opinion even though he had more knowledge of the Vietnam situation. I found it heart breaking that they could only see their picture and not the best outcome for the United states and Vietnam. As for Copper's story, I would have to say that I could see alot of the same going on. When the war started in Vietnam no one in the American embassy in Saigon could speak Vietnamese. They also did not know anything about Buddhism. I find this both frustrating and disappointing. How could we expect to win a war were we could not speak their language or understand their heritage. I also found it hard to understand why an American would be writing Ky's speech. It seemed to me that both of these men tried to do what was best for the United States and Vietnam, but none of their superiors would listen or acknowledge their findings or facts and us them to end the Vietnam war.

As for the second part of the assignment, I do believe that we learned alot from the Vietnam War. I think that we do use all of the information that we can get in order to resolve a conflict before we go to war. I also think that we now try and learn as much about a country as we can. The biggest thing that I would have to say from these to stories is that we need to find a solution before we just jump in feet first. I also think that these stories shows how important it is to listen to people with firsthand knowledge and not just trust the opinion of those in charge. I think that we learned to use all the information that we can get our hands on and make an educated decision on how to proceed in a situation and use talks before war.

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