

“The argument we face is one, for ten years every step we have taken has been based on a previous failure and caused us to take another step which failed. As we get further into the bag, we get deeply bruised. Also we have made excessive claims we haven’t been able to realize.

Two, also after twenty years of warning about war in Asia, we are now doing what MacArthur and others have warned us about. We are about to fight a war we can’t fight and win as the country we are trying to help is quitting.

Three, there is a failure on our part to fully realize what guerrilla war is like. We are sending conventional troops to do an unconventional job.

Four, how long--how much? Can we take casualties over five years--aren’t we talking about military solution when the solution is really political? Why can’t we interdict better? Why are our bombings so fruitless? Why can’t we blockade the coast? Why can’t we improve our intelligence? Why can’t we find the VC?”

National Security Adviser McGeorge Bundy, July 1965 (with emphasis and paragraphing added)