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# WHAT CONGRESSMEN FOUND IN VIETNAM

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## Personal Reports

Here, from 25 members of Congress who have just returned from Vietnam, is a first-hand appraisal of how the war there is going—and what the U. S. should do about it. Most say: Hit North Vietnam harder by air, close off Reds' big port of supply.

The attitude of Congress in months ahead is expected to influence importantly the course of war in Vietnam.

In recent weeks, more than 40 U. S. Senators and Representatives visited Vietnam for a first-hand appraisal of the war. Most now are back.

For a report on what they found, members of the staff of "U. S. News & World Report" interviewed 25 of the returning members of Congress.

Almost all of these have returned convinced that this war is going to be long and difficult.

There is strong support among them for an increased war effort—both in greater use of air power and in a build-up of ground strength. Most of those who visited Vietnam are convinced that it is time to close off the North Vietnamese port of Haiphong and to cut rail lines to Red China.

The dominant feeling seems to be that this is a real war, and that the important thing is to bring enough power to bear to win it without unnecessary delay.

There appears to be little concern among these Congressmen that Red China might jump in to broaden the war.

In the interviews that follow, you get the broad range of views among members of Congress who have appraised the Vietnam war on the scene.



**U. S. troops "have to fight under wraps, and they don't like it. They want to win."**

**Representative L. Mendel Rivers** (Dem.), of South Carolina, is chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives.

**Q** Mr. Rivers, what was the main impression that you carried away from Vietnam?

**A** My impression was that our men and their officers felt they could win, and they wanted an objective. They could not understand why they were having to fight under wraps, and they don't like it. They want to win.

**Q** Will any increased ground action call for greater commitment of U. S. troops?

**A** It will call for greater troop commitment, but we've got to do much, much more in the air.

We didn't beat Japan on the ground. We didn't beat Japan on the sea. We didn't beat Germany on the ground. And you'll not beat these people in Vietnam on the ground, because they have an inexhaustible supply of people anywhere they'll fight.

We're fighting the Reds now the way they want us to fight them. And this is not the American way to fight.

The only way you can beat those fellows is to bomb them heavily. Now, I don't mean slaughter the cities. I mean knock out the military objectives.

**Q** Their industries?

**A** That's right. And we've spared them.

The port of Haiphong should be closed, too. We would not have to drop a single bomb to close that key port. It could be done by mines, by use of frogmen.

**Q** How soon could we end this war?

**A** When you start hurting those people badly enough, they will do exactly as the Communists did at Panmunjom [in Korea]. We hurt them badly in Korea and they stopped. But it's not enough for us to fight with one hand tied behind our back.

**Q** If this war drags on, is it likely to be a political issue next November?

**A** The way it's being fought now, it can't help being an issue.



**"We're not trying hard enough. We must dry up enemy's sources of supplies."**

**Representative Charles E. Chamberlain** (Rep.), of Michigan, is a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

**Q** Mr. Chamberlain, how would you size up the U. S. war effort in Vietnam?

**A** We're not trying hard enough to win that war—and I feel very strongly about that. What should the U. S. do that it is not doing?