
The Series So Far

Events before Tonkin incidents: Study says United States-run covert war against North Vietnam preceded Tonkin Gulf clashes by months.

Planning the bombing: After Tonkin clashes, and before Presidential election of 1964, Johnson Administration planners secretly reached "general consensus" favoring air war against North, study reports. Sustained bombing began in March, 1965.

The ground war begins: Johnson Administration decided to commit U.S. to ground war after month of bombing failed to crush Hanoi. The President ordered his decision kept secret.

Kennedy years: Kennedy Administration's approval of covert warfare against North Vietnam in 1961 and "complicity" in ouster of President Diem deepened American involvement in Vietnam.

1965-66 troop build-up: Study ascribes escalation of ground war to failure to plan for response of North Vietnamese and Vietcong. Air war was widened despite intelligence warnings that Hanoi's will could not be broken by raids.