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What They Said About Vietnam

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Some memorable quotes from the Vietnam period:

"You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over quickly."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower explaining "the falling domino principle" at a news conference, April, 1954.

"My solutions? Tell the Vietnamese they've got to draw in their horns or we're going to bomb them back into the Stone Age."

General Curtis E. LeMay, Chief of Staff Air Force, May, 1964.

"But we are not about to send American boys nine or ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves."

President Lyndon B. Johnson, Akron, Ohio, October, 1964.

"Come home with that coonskin on the wall."

President Johnson to commanders at Cam Ranh Bay, October, 1968.

"I see light at the end of the tunnel."

Walt W. Rostow, President Johnson's national security, in Look, December, 1967.

"We had to destroy it in order to save it."

American officer at Ben Tre after Tet attack, February, 1968.

"We believe peace is at hand."

Henry A. Kissinger, President M. Nixon's national security adviser, October, 1972.

New York Times