WHO IS AGAINST THE WAR IN VIETNAM?

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

AND THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ARE AGAINST IT.

THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL FUND AND INTERRACIAL CIVIL RIGHTS GROUP IS AGAINST IT.
John Lewis, Stokely Carmichael and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee are against it.

One SNCC member, Julian Bond, was thrown out of the Georgia House of Representatives because he is against the war in Vietnam.

Cassius Clay-Muhammad Ali and Elijah Muhammad and the Black Muslims are against it.

Malcolm X was against the war in Vietnam.
SO IS ADAM CLAYTON POWELL.

JAMES FARMER, FLOYD MCKISSICK AND THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY ARE AGAINST IT.

MOST OF THE AFRICANS AT THE UNITED NATIONS ARE AGAINST THE WAR IN VIETNAM.

SO ARE THOUSANDS OF OTHERS, WHITE AND BLACK, RICH AND POOR.
THE NEGRO MAN SAID: "WHY SHOULD WE FIGHT FOR A COUNTRY THAT HAS NEVER Fought FOR US?"

ONE MAN SAID, "WE SHOULD FIGHT FOR FREE ELECTIONS IN MISSISSIPPI AND ALABAMA, NOT IN VIET NAM."

ONE SAID, "WHY ARE WE ALWAYS FIRST CITIZENS ON THE BATTLEFIELD AND SECOND CLASS CITIZENS AT HOME?"

SOME NEGROES ARE WORRIED BECAUSE SO MANY OF US SUFFER FROM THE WAR."
ONE OUT OF EVERY TEN YOUNG MEN IN AMERICA IS A NEGRO.

BUT TWO OUT OF EVERY FIVE MEN KILLED IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM IS A NEGRO.

THE UNITED STATES SAYS THIS IS BECAUSE NEGROES ARE VERY BRAVE, BUT MOST PEOPLE KNOW IT IS BECAUSE WE DO MORE OF THE DIRTY FRONT-LINE FIGHTING THAN WE SHOULD.

WHEN YOU READ THIS BOOK, HOW WILL YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR SON, OR HUSBAND, OR BROTHER OR UNCLE--OR YOURSELF--FIGHTING MILES AWAY FROM HOME AGAINST A PEOPLE WHO ONLY WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE BY EVERYONE?
In 1860, when the United States was fighting a war to free the slaves, the French were fighting a war to make slaves of the people who live in Vietnam. The Vietnamese people wanted to run their own country, but could not defeat the strong French armies.

During the Second World War, one group of Frenchmen was friendly to Japan and Germany. These men surrendered Vietnam to Japan without firing a shot.

The Japanese told the Vietnamese people they could be free under Japanese rule, but a group of Vietnamese under a man named Ho Chi Minh wanted freedom under their own rule. These men fought the Japanese.
When the Second World War was over and Japan was beaten, the Vietnamese ruled the country. They had an election and Ho Chi Minh was elected President.

The French wanted to take over the country again, however, and captured the city of Hanoi.

By 1946, France and Vietnam were at war.
Even though the Vietnamese people were fighting for independence and freedom in their own country against an outside force,

The United States would not help them. Instead, we helped France.

But even with our help, with modern weapons and many men, the French could not win. Some men wanted us to take over the war when the French... Surrendered but President Lyndon Johnson, who was then still just a United States senator, said he was against "sending American G.I.'s... on a bloodletting spree to perpetuate colonialism and white man's exploitation of Asia."
In 1954, France and the Vietnamese agreed to stop fighting and to divide the country in half until an election could be held and the country united again.

They also agreed that no soldiers or weapons from any country would come into Vietnam.

France, Vietnam, China, England, Russia and other countries signed this agreement. The United States would not sign, but we agreed we would not try to overthrow the agreement by force.

The United States didn't want an election in Vietnam. President Eisenhower said if an election was held "possibly 80 percent of the people would have voted for the Communist Ho Chi Minh as their leader."
Because we didn't want the people of Vietnam to select a man we didn't like, we set up a man named Ngo Dinh Diem as President of South Vietnam and helped him hold two elections in the southern part of the country.

The Diem government in South Vietnam arrested, tortured and killed many people who did not agree with it.

The elections violated the agreement which had ended the fighting.

In December, 1960, the National Liberation Front was formed.

Some people here called it the "Viet Cong" like people who don't like Negroes call us "niggers."
The members of the National Liberation Front were doctors, lawyers, Catholics, Buddhists, democrats, communists, students and members of three of the political parties in Vietnam.

They began to fight against the government of South Vietnam.

The Diem government asked the United States for military advisers to help train the Vietnamese Army.

There are now more than 400,000 American men fighting in Vietnam.
Some Americans say that since Ho Chi Minh is a Communist, and since other members of the National Liberation Front are Communists, then they don't speak for the ordinary people of Vietnam.

But Henry Cabot Lodge, the American Ambassador to South Vietnam says "the only people who have been doing anything for the little man, the man at the grass roots, to lift him up, are the Communists."

And Premier Ky, the man who rules South Vietnam today, says "the Communists are closer to the people's yearning for social justice and an independent life than his own government."

Many American generals say we can win in Vietnam.
But General Douglas MacArthur, President (and former General) Dwight Eisenhower, General Matthew Ridgeway, General Maxwell Taylor, General James Gavin and General Omar Bradley have all said America should not have large numbers of troops fighting a land war in Asia.

The United States says we are fighting in Vietnam because our government doesn't like the programs of the National Liberation Front.

But the National Liberation Front says it wants free elections representing all interests, land reforms and all democratic freedoms.

We say the people of Vietnam support the war, but 20 percent of the South Vietnamese army deserted in 1965.
WE SAY THE PEOPLE WE ARE FIGHTING THERE ARE OUTSIDERS FROM NORTH VIETNAM. BUT ONLY 6 PER CENT OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT'S ARMY IS FROM NORTH VIETNAM.

THE OTHERS ARE FROM THE SOUTH AND ARE FIGHTING OUTSIDERS - THE UNITED STATES - FOR THE FREEDOM OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

WE SAY WE FIGHT IN VIETNAM TO FIGHT AGAINST COMMunist CHINESE AGression IN SOUTH VIETNAM. BUT THERE ARE NO CHINESE TROOPS FIGHTING IN VIETNAM, NORTH OR SOUTH.

WE SAY IF SOUTH VIETNAM GOES COMMUNIST THEN SO WILL EVERY OTHER COUNTRY NEARBY.
But we also say we want the Vietnamese people to choose their own government, and then we won't even let communists run for office.

We say the North Vietnamese government will not negotiate with us, but they have tried to talk with us seven times since September, 1964.

We are worried about fighting a war against poverty in America.

But we spend $499,999.96 for every enemy soldier we kill or capture while people starve and go without good jobs at home.
We say we have to keep fighting because if we stop, other countries will not respect us.

But France left after her troops were defeated in Vietnam, and every country in the world respects France for her decision.

We say the National Liberation Front does not fight fairly because they hide behind trees and bushes.

Because they take land from the rich and give it to the poor.
Because they kill their enemies.

But we hid behind trees and bushes when we fought the British for our independence.

We asked for help from any country that would give it to us (France, Spain and Holland did give us troops and aid).

We tarred and feathered and killed our enemies, and took their land.
The people of Vietnam are fighting their own war for independence.

They want to run their own country, and don't want anyone—Americans, French, Chinese or Russian—to tell them how to do it.

What do you think? Should we be fighting in Vietnam, or should we let the Vietnamese people—Catholics, Buddhists, communists and democrats—settle their own problems their own way?

You are a part of America.
You are supposed to be a part of the government. Men you vote for help make this war possible. Will you vote for them again?

Register to Vote

Or will the war in Vietnam - the war that is fought in your name - keep on killing?

What do you think?