History - Letter Writing

Question: Suppose you were an American living in 1970s, write a letter to President Nixon, and explain to him whether you support the American involvement in Vietnam War.

Date: 19/3/2009

Dear President Nixon,

I am glad that I can have the opportunity to express my feeling of the US involvement in the Vietnam War to you as an American citizen. Actually, I think our country joining this civil war is an unwise decision. So, I support your anti-Vietnam War movement. It saved our soldiers' lives and also our state.

The Vietnam War had already last for about 15 years. I remembered in 1954, Vietnam gained independence from France but later was divided into north and south. At first, there was an international agreement stated that Communist government in North Vietnam and non-communist government in the South would hold a plebiscite in 1956 to attain unification. However, our alliance, South Vietnam government, refused to hold it and started to eliminate the communist. It destroyed the peace and led to the civil war.

At that time, President Eisenhowver believed in the Domino Theory and therefore he sent US military adviser and armaments to South Vietnam in order to counteract the communist influence. It brought us involved in the local war. However, Vietnam organized large-scale guerrilla warfare to counter-attack us. Our army is unable to defeat the North Vietnamese although we use advanced armament. It already revealed the
The involvement of US in Vietnam War is wrong.

At that time, television started to be very common. We saw that there were many casualties and death among both Vietnamese and Americans. Our soldiers suffered from the bad weather and the wet environment in Vietnam. The guerilla warfare also frightened our army and they have very low morale. I can really sympathize with them. Why should our country join this kind of local war?

From the newspaper and TV, we can also see that many Vietnamese were killed by our army, although they were innocent civilians. Vietnam villages were burned and destroyed by the bombs. I can remember the My Lai Massacre. It was just like a disaster. Huts were turned into ruins and villagers' dead bodies were everywhere. It was all done by our army. I am really ashamed of them. At that time, I knew how cruel a war was and I really hope that it can end soon.

After President you come to power, I can see the way towards the peace. Our country had already used many money to due with the military cost of this war. Also, our people were forced to join the army to 'save from the spread of communism' and died in the battlefield. America had suffered enough. The Vietnam War was just a kind of local war and it was none of our business. It was really unwise that we use so much manpower to due with this war because the war started because of our alliance — South Vietnam.

So, I support your order of retreat of the US army in Vietnam. Moreover, I think that the previous containment policy should be abandoned. We should live in peace with the communist countries although our ideology may be different. Only with the cooperation of both capitalist and communist blocs...
the world can be well developed and social can be stable. So, I suggest that our country can try to talk with the communist countries and find ways to cooperate with them to bring peace to the world.

In general, I really appreciate that you ended US involvement in the Vietnam War and rescued the country and American people. I hope that you can win in the next election.

Yours sincerely,

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Dear President,

Surely, Sir, that you have already seen the horrible scene of our "brave and honourable" soldiers dying on the battlefields of Vietnam. Since the time the Vietnam War started till now, nine whole years have already passed. In those years of terror, enough blood had been shed and I believe the time to end the war has come.

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Mr. President, I'm a if you have child. If you do, you should know that no parent would like to see their children die before their own eyes. (In front of your television.) It's really heart-breaking seeing parents crying, holding their sons' pictures, and with tears all over their faces, all the while forever separated from each other. Please, Mr. President, if you could only understand a bit of the people's feelings. get the U.S. troops right out of Vietnam and end this treacherous forever.

The Americans do understand that entering the war was originally a means to suppress the spread of communism and bring freedom, liberation and happiness to the Vietnamese. Mr. President, that should we consider deaths and casualties as freedom? Away to happiness? A way to liberation? Away to freedom? Please reconsider that seriously. Since 1963, up to 60,000 Americans has sacrificed their lives in order to achieve the so-called goal! Is all that worth it? Do we get ANY benefit from the war? I doubt really much about it.

The former Mr. President, Eisenhoweber believed that North Vietnam would be quite an easy piece of cake since its armaments
are relatively "Stone-Aged" compared to our Big Black Bombs
and our advanced weapons. However, we (Che) were wrong.
The Viet-congs, supported by the newly formed Red China and
the U.S.S.R., have been using guerrilla tactics against
our, allow me to say, brainless and cruel bombing. At that
time, many of us are confident and we thought, Ah,
give it a few more years, we would win at last! However,
as years gone by, bodies piled up and the war has not ever
ended. The containment policy, I believe, is already out of
date. We should try to mediate with the communists and
try to end the war for the sake of the innocent Vietnamese
and for the sake of the American people.

Remember the meeting in Moscow with Mr Brezhnev? I believe
that you made a positive step in settling disputes through
peaceful means. Please do not stop the effort. Americans will
be grateful for your kind act.

Yours sincerely

Peace lover

Vincent Brown
Dear President Nixon:

I'm a local citizen living in South California and I'm writing with regard to the Vietnam War and hope this letter can convince you to withdraw the troops from Vietnam.

First of all, I strongly oppose the US involvement in the Vietnam War. I saw tears and screams from the Vietnamese... why we can be so cruel to others? We are not... tyrannical... and... we... should respect others' independence. Could you end the war immediately and give the Vietnamese hope? At that moment, I felt extremely scary and nervous. As an American citizen, peace is the only thing I want for.

Moreover, I watched a documentary about the My Lai Massacre yesterday. I saw some dead bodies lying on the ground and covered with blood. This horrible scene created a sense of compunction to the Vietnamese in my mind. Furthermore, the United States is the benchmark of democracy and liberation, therefore, I think the government should use peaceful means instead of inhuman ways to settle disputes in respect to our objections. Therefore, I dissent the war because the above reasons. Since the war not only destroy their lives, but their broken heart.

Besides affecting Vietnam and interest, the war caused serious impact to our nation in different aspects. Because of high investment in military operation and producing armaments in order to provide supplies to the troops and compete with the Soviet Union, the 350 billion US dollar has been used.

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For the war, huge military expenditure caused financial problems and economic burden to the country. In long-term, it would cause social problems such as social instability and crimes. Mr. President, do you want our country return to the period of Great Depression?

Socially, there were heavy casualties and deaths of the US troops while participating in the war. According to a recent survey, there were 58,713 killed and 153,452 wounded since we participated in the war. The death number has already angered many citizens. I joined a large-scale demonstration last week in order to express my anti-war feeling. If you did not changed your pre-Vietnam war policy, we will lose confidence against the government and there will be more and more citizens leading to serious social problems. Do you want to be a president who listened people's opinion? Please make the right decision now.

At last, let's move our attention to political aspect, since the US highly intervened and support South Vietnam, the relationship between the United States and communist countries were worsening. If tension remained, the war may extent to us. Since then, a localize war will turned into a global war that threatening world peace. Most importantly, both we and USSR had nuclear weapons. If war financially happened between us, consequently, the deaths and causalties will increase rapidly.

In like manner, guerilla tactics used by the Vietnamese is useful and effective compared to our heavy bombing. Unless you negotiate with them and stop the war immediately, more casualties and deaths will be created. In a similar way, it will weaken our superpower status. Mr. President, please do something that benefit our nation.

All the above evidence and explanations suggest that containment policy should be abandoned and we should live in peace with the communist bloc.
The original aim for participating in the Vietnam War was to stop the spread of communism. However, covert intervention and military action could not stop the spread of communism. On the other hand, it paved the way for the Vietnamese to support communism on the other hand. Why we need to take part in other countries affairs? Why don't we give free-hand to Vietnamese to choose their future political and economic system? Just because we are competing with the Soviet Union. In my opinion, our country is enjoying liberty and democracy that are jealously by others. Therefore, it's not our business to ask others to follow our system.

Do you remember your visit to China last year? It's showed that you recognize communication and co-operation with the communists is workable. Building trade relationship with communist countries can reduce tension between both sides. In addition, it can strengthen our economy. Most importantly, it can bring a stable and peaceful world to the people who live in earth.

To conclude, please end the war immediately to ensure our security and provide better treatment to the Vietnamese. And wish you luck. Thank you for listening my voice and hope you could contribute to our nation in the future.

Yours sincerely,

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