

70

Why must this nation hazard its ease, and its interest, and its power for the sake of a people so far away? . . . We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954, every American president has offered support to the people of South Vietnam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend . . . we have made a national pledge to help South Vietnam defend its independence. . . . we are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Vietnam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America's word.

— Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965

1. Who gave this speech?
  2. In what year did he give the speech?
  3. What country does he say we must defend?
  4. According to the speaker, how long has America helped this country?
  5. According to the speaker, why are we helping this country?
6. Do you agree with the speaker that it is the job of America to "strengthen world order"? Explain