

THIS CHRONOLOGY OF VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN COMPILED THROUGH VARIOUS SOURCE MATERIALS BY BARBARA ANNE DECHTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF COURSES RELATING TO THE SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EVENTS IN THE VIETNAM ERA-

- 207 B.C. Han Empire enters Red River delta.
- 111 B.C. Hans annex Nam Viet and introduce Chinese writing, Confucianism, rice cultivation and dike systems. They conquer the peoples of Red River Delta, the area of Northern Vietnam.
- 939 A.D. Vietnamese forces defeat the Chinese; marking the end of one thousand years of Chinese rule. Hue is established as the Capital.
- 1407 Ming Dynasty invades Vietnam.
- 1427 Le Loi and Nguyen Trai defeat Mings.
- 1760 Trinh and Nguyen nobles vie for power.
- 1770 Tay Son Rebellion; Nguyen Nhoc takes Saigon.
- 1791 Nguyen Hue defeats Trinh and Le dynasty, establishes capital at Hue.
- 1792 Nguyen Hue dies; Nguyen en Anh seizes Saigon.
- 1802 Nguyen en Anh unifies country and establishes rule as Gia Long, capital at Hue.
- 1830 Minh Mang executes priests; Napoleon III sanctions military intervention.
- 1847 French navy bombards Da Nang.
- 1857 French assault on Da Nang marks the beginning of its military conquest of Indochina.
- 1859 French occupy Saigon region.
- 1873 The French gain control over Cochin China .(Treaty of Saigon)
- 1883 The French establish control over Annam and Tonkin (north and central Vietnam) as protectorates and rule Cochin China as a colony; emperor remains.
- 1887 France establishes the Indochinese Union, composed of Cochin China, Annam, Tonkin, Cambodia and Laos.
- 1890 (May 19) Ho Chi Minh is born in Tonkin.
- 1898 The Spanish American War results in the United States annexation of the Philippines.
- 1899-1902 United States troops suppress the Philippine insurrection.
- 1914-1918 World War I (100,000 Vietnamese sent as laborers)
- 1919 Versailles Meeting to end World War I. Ho Chi Minh, known as Nguyen Ai Quoc, petitions the Paris Peace Conference for recognition of Vietnamese self-determination and to President Woodrow Wilson for an end of French Imperialism over Vietnam -- rejected by Wilson.
- 1920 Ho Chi Minh joins the French Communist Party.
- 1923 Ho Chi Minh goes to Moscow and later to China, where he organizes Vietnamese opposition to the French.

VIETNAM ERA CHRONOLOGY – Page 2

- 1927 About 1,000 United States Marines land in China (on March 5th) to protect American property in civil war. *Vietnamese Nationalist Party (VNQDD) is established by Ho Chi Minh.
- 1929 Stock market crash (on October 29th) marked an end of postwar prosperity; worst American depression begins.
- 1930 VNQDD rebellion fails, French suppress the movement. Ho Chi Minh and others form the Indochinese Communist Party. *The Communist rebellion fails; thousands take refuge in China.
- 1932 Reconstruction Finance Corporation established on January 22nd to stimulate banking and business. Unemployment at 12 million. Bao Dai returns to Vietnam from schooling in France to ascend to the throne under French tutelage.
- 1933 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt orders all banks in the United States to be closed (March 6th). *On June 16th Congress passes the New Deal. (social and economic measures)
- 1934 United States troops pull out of Haiti on August 6th.
- 1939 Outbreak of World War II in Europe. *Einstein alerts Roosevelt to A-bomb opportunity in August 2nd letter. *United States declares its neutrality in European War on September 5th.
- 1940 France surrenders to Germany and collaborates with Japan over control of Vietnam. *Japan occupies the northern part of Indochina; France still rules Vietnam. *United States approves sale of surplus war material to Britain and transfers 50 over-aged destroyers. *First peacetime draft approved.
- 1941-1945 World War II
- 1941 The Four Freedoms termed essential by President Roosevelt in speech to Congress on January 6th, freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and fear.
*Lend-Lease Act signed March 11th, providing \$7 billion in military credits for Britain. (*Lend-Lease for USSR approved in November.)
*U.S. occupies Iceland on July 7th.
**The Atlantic Charter, 8-point declaration of principles, issued by Roosevelt and Churchill on August 14th. (The Charter promised "self government" and "sovereign rights" to all people "who have been forcibly deprived of them." Vietnamese nationalists were prepared to make the most of the pledge. A student group at Hanoi University joined with the Socialist party and the Communist party to form the League for the Independence of Vietnam (Vietminh). Its leader was Ho Chi Minh.

VIETNAM ERA CHRONOLOGY – Page 3

*Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7th; 19 United States ships are sunk or damaged, and 2,300 are dead. *The United States declares war on Japan on December 8th and on Germany and Italy on December 11th after these countries declare war.
*Japanese forces complete their occupation of Indochina; the French administration remains intact. *The Vietminh become allies of the United States in war with Japan. The United States arms the Vietminh to fight the Japanese. (Vietminh and OSS rescue many downed American pilots.)

1945

February – Yalta Conference met in the Crimea, USSR, 2/4-11. Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin agree that the Soviet Union would enter the war against Japan. *Marines land on Iwo Jima on 2/19.

March - The Japanese overthrow the French administration in Indochina, establish direct control, and proclaim nominal Vietnamese "independence".

April - United States forces invade Okinawa on 4/1. *President Roosevelt, (favored an end to French rule in Vietnam) 63, dies of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Ga on 4/12. *The Japanese leave Vietnam and Bao Dai abdicates to Ho. *Vice President Harry S. Truman becomes President.

May – Germany surrenders

July – First atomic bomb, produced at Los Alamos, NM, exploded at Alamogordo, NM 7/16.

August – Bomb dropped on Hiroshima – 8/6 and on Nagasaki – 8/9. *Japan surrenders on 8/14. *The August Revolution brings the Vietminh to power throughout Vietnam.

September– Ho Chi Minh proclaims independence in the name of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam – based upon the Atlantic Charter and the political phrases and ideals of the United States Constitution and prepared with the assistance of Major Archimedes Patti, American Intelligence Officer. "Patti and the Frenchman Jean Sainteny, Commissioner for Indo-China, who watched that day while what he calls "the infantile anti-colonialism of the Americans" helped to power a movement dominated by Communists with incalculable consequences, a movement which the United States would spend the next thirty years trying either to dislodge or contain." (Many Reasons Why, The American Involvement in Vietnam, Michael Charlton & Anthony Moncrieff, 1978, Hill And Wang, New York, page 2; 1945: the untold story) *United States forces enter Korea south of the 38th parallel to displace Japanese forces on 9/8. *General Douglas MacArthur takes over supervision of Japan on 9/9. *British and Chinese forces begin occupying Vietnam to receive Japanese surrender and to pave the way for the

VIETNAM ERA CHRONOLOGY – Page 4

return of French authority. *A. Peter Dewey, head of the OSS mission in Saigon, is shot by Vietminh troops, becoming the first American to die in the Vietnam War.

October – Vietminh and Americans in northern Vietnam organize the Vietnam-American Friendship Association.

1946

March – Franco-Vietnamese Accords signed. *Ho-Sainteny Agreement provides for French recognition of Vietnam as a “free state” within the French Union, stationing of French troops in the north, and a referendum on Vietnamese unification.

June – The Fontainebleau Conference convenes. *The French, in violation of the March Agreement proclaim a separate government for Cochinchina.

July – Philippines are given independence by the United States.

September – Ho Chi Minh, after futile negotiations in Paris to implement the March Agreement, leaves after signing a modus vivendi calling for an end to French-Vietnamese clashes.

November – Shooting between French and Vietnamese soldiers at Haiphong leads to French naval bombardment.

December – The Vietminh attack French forces in Tonkin and the French garrisons in Hanoi, marking the beginning of the French-Vietminh War. (Harry Truman supports the French effort to control Vietnam and provides funding to France.)

1947

April – United Nations Security Council votes unanimously to place under United States Trusteeship the Pacific Islands formerly mandated to Japan.

May – President Truman asks Congress to aid Greece and Turkey to combat Communist Terrorism. (Truman Doctrine)

August – Britain grants independence to India and Pakistan.

1948

January – Britain grants independence to Burma.

April – The USSR begins a land blockade of Berlin's Allied sectors.

June – The French create “State of Vietnam” and name Bao Dai (former emperor) as Head of State.

December – Alger Hiss, former State Department Official, is indicted for passing secret documents to Whittaker Chambers for transmission to a Communist spy ring. (convicted 1/21/50).

1949

March – Elysee Agreement makes Vietnam an “associated state” within the French Union.

June – United States troops are withdrawn from Korea.

VIETNAM ERA CHRONOLOGY – Page 5

August – NATO is established by the United States, Canada and ten western European nations agreeing that an armed attack against one or more of them would be considered an attack against all.

October – People's Republic of China proclaimed by Mao Tse-tung, marking the completion of Communist victory in the Chinese civil war. *Eleven leaders of the U.S. Communist Party are convicted of advocating the violent overthrow of the United States Government.

December – Netherlands grants independence to Indonesia.

1950

January – People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union recognize the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. *United States recalls all consular officials from China after the latter seized the American Consulate General in Beijing. *President Truman authorizes production of H Bomb.

February – United States and Britain recognize the Bao Dai Government.

May – United States begins military assistance to the French war effort in Indochina.

June – United Nations asks for troops to restore peace in Korea. *President Truman announces increased U.S. military assistance to Vietnam and sends 35 military advisers (arrive in August) to South Vietnam and agrees to provide military and economic aid to the anti-Communist government. *President Truman orders air force and navy to Korea after North Korea invades the South and approves ground force and air strikes against the North – outbreak of war.

September – United States Forces land at Inchon. *The French suffer severe defeats in North Vietnam.

October – United Nations forces take Pyongyang.

November – United Nations forces reach Chinese border. *China sends troops across the border. *Two members of a Puerto Rican nationalist movement try to kill President Truman.

December – The United States bans shipments to Communist China and to Asiatic ports trading with China. *The United States signs a Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement with France, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. *McCarthyism hysteria sweeps the nation.

1951

January – March – French halt Vietminh advance in the North.

April – General Douglas MacArthur is removed from his Korea command for unauthorized policy statements.

July – Korean cease-fire talks begin.

- August – Tariff concessions by the United States to the Soviet Union, Communist China and all Communist-dominated lands are suspended.
- September – The United States, Australia and New Zealand sign a Mutual Security Pact.
*Transcontinental television is inaugurated.
- 1952 Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected President. (Truman does not run)
- 1953 May – President Eisenhower announces that the United States had given France \$60 million for the Indochina War. More aid was announced in September. (In 1954 it was reported that three-fourths of the war's costs were met by the United States) *General Navarre becomes Commander of French forces, puts forth his plan to win the war.
- July – Armistice ends the Korean War.
- November - French forces occupy Dien Bien Phu to forestall the Vietminh assault on Laos and to establish a base for an offensive against the Vietminh.
- 1954 January - United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union agree to hold a conference on Korea and Indochina at Geneva that spring.
- March – Battle of Dien Bien Phu begins when the Vietminh attack the fortress. *Admiral Arthur Radford proposes Operation Vulture to assist the French in defending Dien Bien Phu.
- April – President Eisenhower sets forth the “domino theory” to explain the political significance of Indochina as his administration considers military intervention at Dien Bien Phu. *Senator Joseph McCarthy leads televised hearings (April 22-June 17) into alleged Communist influence in the Army. *Winston Churchill and the British refuse to participate in Operation Vulture.(4/25) *President Eisenhower announces that the United States will not provide air support to the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu.(4/29)
- May - The Vietminh conquer Dien Bien Phu.(5/7) *The Indochina phase of the Geneva Conference opens.(5/8)
- June – Ngo Dinh Diem(with US approval through the influence of Joseph P. Kennedy, Cardinal Spellman of NYC, Henry Luce, Eisenhower and Nixon)is named prime minister of the State of Vietnam. Pierre Mendes-France becomes Prime Minister of France and promises to reach an agreement in Vietnam within a month.
- July – France signs a cease-fire ending hostilities in Indochina.(7/20) *Geneva Armistice and Final Declaration provide for the temporary division of Vietnam (North and South) pending 1956 nationwide elections.
- August - The first of nearly one million refugees from North Vietnam cross into South Vietnam.

VIETNAM ERA CHRONOLOGY - Page 7

- September - United States signs the Manila Treaty forming the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. SEATO is formed by collective defense pact (signed in Manila) by the United States, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Pakistan and Thailand (9/8)
- December - Condemnation of Senator McCarthy voted by the Senate on December 2nd for contempt of a Senate elections subcommittee for abuse of its members and for insults to the Senate during his Army investigation hearings.
- 1955 January - United States begins direct assistance to the South Vietnamese government.
- February - United States agrees to help train South Vietnamese army.
- March - Ngo Dinh Diem attacks the Binh Xuyen.
- April-May - South Vietnamese army defeats Binh Xuyen forces.
- May - Supreme Court orders "all deliberate speed" in integration of public schools (5/31) based upon 5/17/54 Brown v. Board of Ed. Decision.
- June - South Vietnamese army defeats Hoa Hao forces.
- July - Ngo Dinh Diem repudiates the Geneva Agreements and refuses to plan for open elections throughout the country (concern that Ho Chi Minh would win.) (7/6) *People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union conclude aid agreements with North Vietnam. *A summit meeting of leaders of the United States, Britain, France and the USSR takes place in Geneva (7/18-23.)
- August - Diem refuses negotiations with North Vietnam on reunification elections.
- October - Diem defeats Bao Dai in referendum and proclaims the Republic of Vietnam with himself as president.
- December - Rosa Parks refuses to give her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama (12/1) *Bus segregation ordinance declared unconstitutional by a federal court following boycott and NAACP protest. *Merger of America's two largest labor organizations under the name - American Federation of Labor (AFL) and Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) - membership estimated at 15 million.
- 1956 March - Constituent National Assembly elected in South Vietnam. *Massive resistance to Supreme Court desegregation rulings was called for March 12 by 101 Southern congressmen.
- June - Federal Aid Highway Act signed 6/29, inaugurating interstate highway system.
- July - With United States support, Diem's refusal to follow Geneva Accords elections decree passes without incident. Arrest and detention of anyone "dangerous to national security" begins.
- September - First transatlantic telephone cable goes into operation. (9/25)

- December - North Vietnamese tell followers in the South to persist in "political struggle" and to prepare for "self-defense".
- 1957 April - Congress approves first civil rights bill for "blacks" since Reconstruction to protect voting rights. (4/29)
- May - Diem visits the United States, addresses Congress and gains Eisenhower's reaffirmation of U.S. support.
- September - National Guardsmen, called out by Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus on 9/4 to bar nine black students from entering the previously all-white Central High School in Little Rock. On 9/21 Faubus complies with a federal court order to remove the National Guardsmen. The students enter school on 9/23 but are ordered to withdraw by local authorities because of fear of mob violence. President Eisenhower sends federal troops on 9/24 to enforce the court's order.
- November - In Laos, the royal government and the Pathet Lao agree to a coalition government and integration of forces; Souvanna Phuoma selected as head of the neutral coalition government.
- 1958 January - First U.S. earth satellite goes into orbit and discovers Van Allen radiation belt. (1/31)
- July-August - In Laos, a United States backed anticommunist group forces Phuoma to resign and establishes a new government from which the Pathet Lao are purged.
- July-October - Five thousand U.S. Marines are sent to Lebanon to protect the elected government from a threatened overthrow.
- December - The first domestic jet airline passenger service in the U.S. is opened by National Airlines between New York and Miami. (12/10) *Hanoi begins attacks on Saigon.
- 1959 January - Alaska is admitted to the Union as the 49th State (1/3); Hawaii is admitted on August 21.
- April - President Eisenhower makes his first commitment to maintain South Vietnam as a separate nation. (4/4) *Christian A. Herter replaces John Foster Dulles as Secretary of State. (4/22) *St. Lawrence Seaway opened on April 25.
- May - North Vietnam begins the National Liberation Front and approves a limited armed struggle and the infiltration of men and supplies to the South.
- July - General Lyman Lemnitzer replaces General Maxwell Taylor as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army. (7/1) *Major Dale Bius and Master Sergeant Chester Ovnard are killed during a Vietcong attack at Bien Hoa.

- 1960
- September - Soviet Premier Khrushchev pays an unprecedented visit to the United States (9/15-27) and makes a transcontinental tour.
 - December - Thomas S. Gates, Jr. replaces Neil H. McElroy as Secretary of Defense. (12/1) *Approximately 760 United States military personnel are in Vietnam.
 - January - Vietcong uprising in Ben Tre province in the Mekong Delta.
 - February - Sit-ins begin (2/1) when four black college students in Greensboro, N.C. refuse to move from a Woolworth lunch counter when they were denied service. (By September, 1961 more than 70,000 students, white and black, had participated in sit-ins.)
 - March - Southern dissidents in Vietnam issue "Declaration of Former Resistance Fighters".
 - April - Congress approves a strong voting rights act. (4/21)
 - May - A U-2 reconnaissance plane of the United States is shot down in the Soviet Union. (5/1) (The pilot, Gary Powers, is captured.)
 - August - In Laos a neutralist coup puts Souvanna Phuoma back in power; a rightist counterattack leads to civil war.
 - September - North Vietnamese adopt the objectives of a socialist state in the North and a struggle for reunification in the South.
 - October - General George Decker replaces General Lyman Lemnitzer as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army. (10/1)
 - November - (Democrat) John F. Kennedy defeats Richard Nixon in the United States Presidential Election.
 - December - On 12/15 the United States announces that it is backing a rightist group in Laos, which took power the next day. *The National Liberation Front is established in South Vietnam (12/20) *Crisis continues in Laos. *There are approximately 900 United States Military Advisors in South Vietnam. (12/31)
- 1961
- January - The United States severs diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba on 1/3, after disputes over nationalizations of United States businesses. United States military presence extended at Guantanamo Base. *John F. Kennedy succeeds Dwight David Eisenhower as President. Dean Rusk succeeds Christian A. Herter as Secretary of State. Robert S. McNamara succeeds Thomas S. Gates, Jr as Secretary of Defense. McGeorge Bundy succeeds Gordon Gray as National Security Adviser. (1/21) *Kennedy approves a Vietnam counterinsurgency plan. (1/28)
 - March - Kennedy insists that a Laotian cease-fire must precede negotiations to establish a neutral Laos.

April - Invasion of Cuba's Bay of Pigs on 4/17 by Cuban exiles trained, armed, and directed by the United States, attempting to overthrow the regime of Premier Fidel Castro, fails.

May - Commander Alan B. Shepherd, Jr. was rocketed from Cape Canaveral, Florida 116.5 miles above the earth in a Mercury capsule on May 5th - this was the first U.S.-crewed suborbital flight. *Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson visits South Vietnam and recommends a strong American commitment there. (5/9-15) *Geneva Conference on Laos opens. - Laos cease-fire begins.. This results in a coalition neutral government under Souvanna Phuoma.

June - President Ngo Dinh Diem asks for United States military advisers to train the South Vietnamese Army. (6/9)

July - General Maxwell Taylor is appointed military adviser to President John F. Kennedy. (7/1)

October - Walt Rostrow and General Maxwell Taylor visit South Vietnam and urge increased United States assistance.

November - General Maxwell Taylor concludes that United States military, financial and political aid to South Vietnam will bring victory without a U.S. takeover of the war. He advises President Kennedy to send 8,000 U.S. combat troops to Vietnam. (11/3)

December - President Kennedy restates the United States commitment to an independent South Vietnam (12/15) *United States military personnel in Vietnam now number - 3,200. (12/31)

1962

February - MACV (U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) is established in Saigon under the command of General Paul Harkins. The major buildup of American forces begins. (2/6) *President Kennedy authorizes U.S. military advisers in Vietnam to return fire if fired upon. (2/14) *Lt. Col. John H Glenn, Jr. becomes the first American in orbit on 2/20 when he circles the earth three times in the Mercury capsule Friendship 7.

March - The United States launches the Strategic Hamlet (rural pacification) Program in Vietnam. (3/22) *The U. S. Supreme Court backs "one man-one vote" apportionment of seats in state legislatures

July - First U.S. Communications Satellite is launched. *Geneva Accords on Laos are signed. (7/23)

October - James Meredith becomes the first black student at the University of Mississippi after 3,000 troops put down riots. (10/1) *General Earl Wheeler replaces General George Decker as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army. General Maxwell Taylor replaces

General Lyman Lemnitzer as Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. (10/1) *A Soviet offensive missile buildup in Cuba is revealed on 10/22 by President Kennedy, who orders a naval and air quarantine on shipment of offensive military equipment to the island. Kennedy and Soviet Premier Khrushchev reach agreement on 10/28 on a formula to end the crisis.

November – President Kennedy announces that Soviet missile bases in Cuba are being dismantled. (11/2)

December – Rachel Carson's book – Silent Spring – launches an environmentalist movement. *U.S. military personnel in Vietnam now number – 11,300.

1963

January – The Vietcong defeat the South Vietnamese at Ap Bac.

May – South Vietnamese troops fire on Buddhist protesters at Hue. *Buddhists riot and challenge the authority of Ngo Dinh Diem.

June – Supreme Court rules that laws requiring recitation of the Lord's Prayer or Bible Verses are unconstitutional in public schools. (6/17) *Buddhist monk commits suicide by self-immolation. (Corruption of Diem administration leads U.S. to begin withdrawing support)

July – The U.S., Soviet Union and Britain agree upon a limited nuclear test-ban treaty – barring all nuclear tests except underground. (7/25)

August – South Vietnam troops attack Buddhist temples. (8/21) *Henry Cabot Lodge replaces Frederick Nolting as U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam. (8/22) *Washington demonstration by 200,000 persons in support of "black demands" for equal rights – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech. (8/28)

November – Military coup led by Duong Van Minh and other generals overthrows the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem. (11/1) *Diem and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, are assassinated. (11/2) *President John F. Kennedy, Jr. was shot and fatally wounded by an assassin on 11/22 as he rode in a motorcade through downtown Dallas, Texas. Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson was sworn in as President shortly after in Dallas. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested and charged with the murder. Oswald was shot and fatally wounded on 11/24 by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner who was convicted of murder – 4/14/64 - and sentenced to death. Ruby died of natural causes on 1/3/67, while awaiting a retrial.

December – North Vietnam decides to intensify the struggle in the South and the Vietcong enlarge the Ho Chi Minh trail. *U.S. military personnel in Vietnam now number – 16,300. (12/31) *Aid to South Vietnam was more than \$500 million in 1963. *Betty Friedan's "Feminine Mystique" ignites the women's movement.

VIETNAM ERA CHRONOLOGY – Page 12

1964

January – General Nguyen Khanh seizes power in Saigon. *Panama suspends relations with the U.S. after riots in Panama (1/9) are sparked when the United States offers to negotiate a new canal treaty on 12/18.

February – President Johnson orders the removal of American dependents from South Vietnam. (2/7) *The U.S. Supreme Court orders that congressional districts have equal populations. (2/17)

April – General William Westmoreland is named MACV Commander.

May – U.S. reports that it is sending military planes to Laos. (5/27)

June – Omnibus civil rights bill is passed on 6/29, banning discrimination in voting, employment and public accommodations. *General William Westmoreland replaces General Paul Harkins as head of MACV. (6/20) *General Maxwell Taylor replaces Henry Cabot Lodge as U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam. (6/23) *Admiral Ulysses S. Grant Sharp replaces Admiral Harry D. Felt as CINCPAC. (6/30)

June, 1964 – October, 1967 – Three civil rights workers were reported missing in Mississippi on 6/22; they were found buried on 8/4/64. Twenty-one white men were arrested. An all-white federal jury convicted seven of the men of conspiracy in the slayings on 10/20/67.

July – General Harold Johnson replaces General Earle Wheeler as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army. (7/3) *South Vietnamese naval forces carry out raids along the North Vietnamese coast.

August – U.S. destroyer Maddox reports being attacked by North Vietnamese patrol boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. (8/2) *U. S. destroyer, Turner Joy reports attack by North Vietnamese patrol boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. (8/4) *U.S. Congress passes the Tonkin Resolution on 8/7, authorizing Presidential authority to uphold U.S. interests in Southeast Asia. *Congress approves "War On Poverty" Bill. (8/11)

September – The Warren Commission releases a report concluding that Lee Harvey Oswald was solely responsible for assassinating President John F. Kennedy. (9/27)

October – The U.S. Army Fifth Special Forces Group arrives in Vietnam. (10/1)

November – The Vietcong attack Bien Hoa Air Base. Six U.S. B-57 bombers are destroyed and five American service personnel are killed. (11/1) *Lyndon Johnson defeats Senator Barry Goldwater in the presidential election. (11/2) *Demonstrations in Saigon against Khanh's government.

December – The Vietcong bomb the Brinks Hotel in Saigon; two U.S. service personnel are killed. (12/24) *U.S. military personnel in Vietnam now number – 23,300.

1965

February – The Vietcong launch a widespread attack on American military installations in South Vietnam. (2/7) *President Johnson orders continuous bombing of North Vietnam below the 20th parallel. *General Khanh's government is overthrown resulting in coup after coup in the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam)

March – Operation Rolling Thunder begins. (3/2) *First American combat troops (U. S. Third Marine Regiment) arrive in Vietnam to defend Danang. (3/8) *First teach-in held at the University of Michigan. (3/24)

April – President Johnson in a speech at Johns Hopkins University offers North Vietnam participation in a regional economic development program if North Vietnam agrees to end fighting; North Vietnam rejects the offer. *President Johnson approves General Westmoreland's request for a ground combat force of forty thousand troops and permits U.S. ground combat troops to conduct offensive operations in South Vietnam. (4/6) *Students for a Democratic Society hold an antiwar rally in Washington. (4/17) *Some 14,000 U.S. troops are sent to the Dominican Republic during a civil war in that Republic. (4/28) (All troops are withdrawn by the next year.)

May – National Teach-In held throughout the country. (5/15)

June – The U.S. State Department reports that President Johnson has authorized the use of U.S. troops in direct combat if the South Vietnamese Army requests assistance. (6/8) *Air Marshall Nguyen Cao Ky becomes South Vietnam's prime minister in the newly established military government – this is the ninth change in government since November, 1963.

July – Henry Cabot Lodge succeeds Maxwell Taylor as U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam. (7/8) *President Johnson approves General Westmoreland's request for additional forces.

August – New voting rights act signed 8/6. *Los Angeles riots in Watts result in the death of 34 people and property damage estimated at \$200 million. (8/11-16)

October – The national origins quota system of immigration is abolished. (10/3)

*Antiwar protests in forty American cities – Oct. 15 & 16.

November – Electric power failure blacks out most of the northeast United States and parts of two Canadian provinces the night of Nov. 9-10. *U.S.-North Vietnamese clash at Ia Drang Valley, the first large open battle of the war. (11/14-16)

December – President Johnson suspends bombing on North Vietnam (Operation Rolling Thunder) in an attempt to invite the North Vietnamese to negotiate. (12/25) *U.S. military personnel in Vietnam now number – 184,300; 636 military personnel are killed in action to this date. Allied troops in Vietnam number – 22,420. (12/31)

1966

January – President Johnson resumes the bombing of North Vietnam (Operation Rolling Thunder) (1/31)

February – The Senate Foreign Relations Committee opens televised hearings on the Vietnam War. (2/4) *President Johnson convenes the Honolulu Conference with the South Vietnamese government. (2/6)

March – The U.S. Senate refuses to repeal the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. (3/1)
*Buddhists lead demonstrations in Hue, Da Nang and Saigon against the South Vietnamese government. South Vietnamese troops are sent to quell the protests.
*President Johnson convenes the Guam Conference. (3/20)

April – Walt Rostow replaces McGeorge Bundy as National Security Adviser. (4/1)
*President Johnson offers the Johns Hopkins Speech. (4/7)

May – U.S. forces bombard Vietcong targets in Cambodia. (5/1)

June – The United States bombs oil facilities in Haiphong and Hanoi. (6/29)

July – Medicare, the government program to pay part of the medical expenses of citizens over 65 years of age, begins. (7/1)

October – Operation Attleboro, attacking Communist bases near the Cambodian border, begins. *President Johnson visits U.S. troops in Vietnam. (10/26)

November – Edward Brooke (R-MA) is elected as the first black U.S. Senator in 85 years. (11/8)

December – U.S. military personnel in Vietnam now number – 385,300; plus 60,000 offshore and 33,000 in Thailand; 6,644 U.S. military personnel have been killed in action to date and there are 52,500 Allied military personnel in Vietnam. (12/31) – During this year, B-52's have been used for the first time. Ho Chi Minh heads the government in North Vietnam and Thieu-Ky heads the government in South Vietnam.

1967

January - North Vietnam states the United States must halt its bombing of the North as a condition for peace negotiations. *Operation Cedar Falls attacks Communist bases in the Iron Triangle. (1/8) *Operation Cedar Falls ends. (1/26)

February - Operation Junction City - attacking Communist bases near the Cambodian border - begins (2/22)

March - President Johnson meets with Premier Ky and General Nguyen Van Thieu, in Guam.

April - One hundred thousand antiwar protesters rally in New York. (4/15)

May - Ellsworth Bunker replaces Henry Cabot Lodge as U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam. (5/1) *Robert Komer is appointed deputy to the MACV commander. (5/9)

*Operation Junction City ends. (5/14) *U.S. planes bomb a power plant in Hanoi. (5/19)

June - President Johnson and Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin meet at Glassboro College in New Jersey and agree not to let any crisis push them into war. (6/23-25)

July - The Congressional Joint Economic Committee estimates that the war in Southeast Asia will cost \$4 to \$6 billion more in 1967 than the \$20.3 billion requested by President Johnson. (7/7) *Riots in Newark, N.J. kill 26 people; injure 1,500 and more than 1,000 people are arrested. (7/12-17) (National Guard called in.) *Riots in Detroit, MI leave at least 40 dead, 2,000 injured and 5,000 people left homeless by rioting, looting and burning in the city's black ghetto. The riots were finally stopped by 4,700 federal paratroopers and 8,000 National Guardsmen. (7/23-30)

September - General Nguyen Van Thieu is elected President of South Vietnam and Ky as Vice President. (9/3) *The North Vietnamese and the Vietcong begin major actions.

*The U.S. begins fortification of Khe Sanh. *President Johnson offers to stop the bombing of North Vietnam, in a speech in San Antonio, if the North Vietnamese will immediately come to the negotiating table for productive discussions. (San Antonio Formula) (9/29)

October - Thurgood Marshall is sworn in as the first black Supreme Court Justice. (10/2)

*Fifty thousand antiwar activists protest at the Pentagon. (10/21)

November - Carl B. Stokes (D, Cleveland) and Richard G. Hatcher (D, Gary, IN) are elected first black mayors of major U.S. cities. (11/7) *General Westmoreland, in a visit to the United States, speaks confidently of a successful outcome of the war.

December - The North Vietnamese reaffirm that they will negotiate when the U.S. stops its bombing. *United States military personnel in Vietnam now number - 485,600 and 16,021 United States military personnel have been killed in action to date. (12/31)

1968

January - Senator Eugene McCarthy announces his decision to seek the Democratic Presidential Nomination. (1/3) *North Vietnamese attack on Khe Sanh begins. (1/21) *The USS Pueblo and her 83 man crew are seized in the Sea of Japan by the North Koreans. (1/23) - 82 men are released on December 22nd. *The "Tet Offensive" begins as Communist troops (North Vietnamese and Vietcong) attack Saigon and 30 province capitals; heavy casualties. (1/30) *North Vietnamese Army and Vietcong capture Hue. General Leonard F. Chapman replaces General Wallace M. Greene as Marine Corps Commandant. (1/31)

February - Richard M. Nixon announces his candidacy for the presidency. (2/1) *United States and South Vietnamese troops regain control of Southern cities; Hue is recaptured after twenty-five days of fighting. (2/25) *General Westmoreland requests an additional 206,000 troops. CBS News Anchorman Walter Cronkite predicts, over the evening news, that the war cannot be won. (2/27)

March - Eugene McCarthy wins the New Hampshire Democratic Presidential Primary. (3/12) *Senator Robert Kennedy announces his decision to seek the Democratic Presidential Nomination. (3/16) *My Lai massacre. (3/16) *The Senior Advisory Group on Vietnam recommends de-escalation of the American commitment in Vietnam. General Creighton Abrams replaces General Westmoreland as MACV Commander. (3/24-25) *President Johnson announces that he will not seek another term as President and suspends the bombing of the North except near the Demilitarized Zone. He calls for peace talks and rejects the request for additional troops. (3/31)

April - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee and James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, is arrested and charged with the murder. Ray is sentenced to 99 years in jail. (4/4) *Columbia University demonstrations begin. (4/23) *200,000 people in New York City demonstrate against the war. (4/26) *Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey announces his decision to seek the Democratic Presidential Nomination. (4/27)

May - President Johnson announces that formal peace talks will take place in Paris. (5/3) *Vietnam peace talks open in Paris. (5/12)

June - Senator Robert F. Kennedy is shot in June 5th at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles and dies on June 6th. Sirhan Bishara Sirhan a Jordanian is convicted of the murder. *Representative Shirley Chisholm (D.NY) becomes the first black woman elected to Congress.

July – General William Westmoreland replaces General Harold Johnson as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army (7/3) *Admiral John McCain replaces Admiral U.S. Grant Sharp as CINCPAC. (7/31)

August – Antiwar protests and riots occur in Chicago during the Democratic National Convention. (Week of August 28th)

October – President Johnson announces the end of the bombing on North Vietnam. Operation Rolling Thunder is ceased. (10/31)

November – Richard M. Nixon defeats Hubert H. Humphrey in the 1968 Presidential elections. (11/5)

December – United States military personnel in Vietnam now number 536,000; and 30,610 U.S. military personnel are killed in action to date. There are 65,600 Allied troops in Vietnam. (12/31)

1969

January – The expanded (South Vietnamese Government and National Liberation Front representatives) Vietnam peace talks begin. (1/18) *Operation Dewey Canyon begins. Richard M. Nixon is inaugurated as President of the United States. William Rogers becomes Secretary of State. Melvin Laird becomes Secretary of Defense. Henry Kissinger becomes national security adviser. (1/22)

March – Operation Dewey Canyon ends and Operation Menu (the secret bombing of Cambodia) begins. (3/18) *Women Strike for Peace demonstration is held in Washington, D.C. (3/26)

April – The number of U.S. military personnel in Vietnam number – 543,400. (highest number) (4/30)

May – Operation Apache Snow begins. (5/10) *President Nixon proposes a peace plan for Vietnam involving mutual troop withdrawal. The National Liberation Front peace plan demands unconditional U.S. troop withdrawal and a coalition government in the South excluding Thieu. (5/14)

June – Operation Apache Snow ends (6/7) *President Nixon, with the announcement of the withdrawal of 25,000 U.S. forces, begins the gradual reduction of the United States military presence. (6/8)

July – U.S. astronaut Neil A. Armstrong, commander of the Apollo 11 mission, becomes the first person to set foot on the moon. (7/20) *President Nixon proclaims the Nixon Doctrine. (7/25)

August – Woodstock Music Festival near Bethel, N.Y. draws 300,000-500,000 people. (8/15-17) *The U.S. Ninth Infantry Division withdraws from Vietnam. (8/27)

September – Ho Chi Minh dies in Hanoi at the age of 79. (9/3)

October - National Moratorium antiwar demonstrations are staged throughout the United States. (10/15)

November - President Nixon appeals to the "silent majority" for support of his Vietnam policy. (11/3) *The New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam sponsors a demonstration of 250,000 people in Washington, D.C. (11/15) *The massacre of hundreds of civilians at My Lai, South Vietnam in 1968 is reported. (11/16) *The U.S. Third Division is withdrawn from Vietnam. (11/30)

December - The U.S. Third Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, is withdrawn from Vietnam. (12/11) *U.S. military personnel strength in Vietnam declines to 475,200 and 40,024 U.S. military personnel are killed in action to date. Allied military personnel in Vietnam totals - 70,300. (The U.S. secretly bombs military bases in Cambodia.) (12/31)

1970

February - A Federal Jury finds the Chicago 7 innocent of conspiring to incite riots during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. However, five were convicted of crossing state lines with intent to incite riots. (2/18) *Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho begin secret peace negotiations in Paris. (2/20)

March - Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia is deposed by General Lon Nol. (3/18)

April - The United States 1st Infantry Division withdraws from Vietnam. (4/15)

*Millions of Americans participate in anti-pollution demonstrations to mark the first "Earth Day". (4/22) *South Vietnam and the Vietcong attack Cambodia. Cambodia responds. (4/29) *The United States and South Vietnamese forces attack North Vietnamese sanctuaries in Cambodia. (4/30)

May - Protests against the Cambodian invasion are held throughout the United States; National Guard Troops kill four students at Kent State University. (5/4) *Two women generals, the first in U.S. history, are named by President Nixon. (5/15)

June - Operations in Cambodia end. (6/30) *President Nixon declares that "peace with honor" will be complete in 1973.

October - The United States Third Brigade, Ninth Infantry Division, leave Vietnam. (10/11)

November - The United States conducts an unsuccessful raid on Son Tay Prison in North Vietnam. (11/21)

December - United States military personnel strength in Vietnam declines to 334,600 and 44,245 United States military personnel are killed in action to date. Allied military personnel decline to - 67,700. (12/31)

1971

January - Charles Manson and three of his followers are found guilty of the first-degree murder in the 1969 slaying of Sharon Tate and six others. (1/26) *Operation Lam Son

719 begins; South Vietnamese forces attack North Vietnamese supply lines in Laos.

(1/30) *Winter Soldier investigation begins in Detroit. (1/31)

March – U.S. Fifth Special Forces Group leaves Vietnam. (3/3) *U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment withdraws from Vietnam. (3/5) *A constitutional amendment (26th Amendment) lowering the voting age to 18 in all elections is approved in the Senate. (3/10) (Ratified- July 1) *A court-martial jury convicts Lt. William L Calley, Jr. of premeditated murder of 22 South Vietnamese civilians at My Lai in 1968. (3/29)

April – Operation Lam Son ends. (4/6) *U.S. III Marine Amphibious Force withdraws from Vietnam. (4/13) *Demonstrations held in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, Calif. calling for an end to the war. (4/20) *U.S. 1st Cavalry Division withdraws from Vietnam. (4/29) *U.S. Second Brigade, 25th Infantry Division withdraws from Vietnam. (4/30)

May – People's Coalition for Peace and Justice demonstrates against the war in Washington, D.C. (5/3-5)

June – Publication of classified Pentagon Papers on the United States involvement in Vietnam was begun June 13th by the New York Times. On June 30th, the United States Supreme Court upheld the right of the Times and the Washington Post to publish the documents under the protection of the First Amendment.

August – The U.S. 173d Airborne Brigade withdraws from Vietnam. (8/25) *The U.S. First Brigade, Fifth Infantry Division withdraws from Vietnam. (8/27) *The Royal Thai Army withdraws from Vietnam. (8/31)

October – Thieu, running unopposed, is elected to another term as President of South Vietnam.

November – President Nixon confines U.S. ground forces to a defensive role. (11/12)

December – U.S. bombers strike massively in North Vietnam for five days beginning on December 26th in retaliation for alleged violations of agreements reached prior to the 1968 bombing halt. *U.S. military personnel strength declines to 140,00/156,800 and 45,626 United States military personnel are killed in action to date. Allied military personnel in Vietnam declines to 53,900. (12/31)

1972

February – President Nixon arrives in Beijing on February 21 for an eight day visit to China, which he called a "journey for peace". The unprecedented visit ends with a joint communique pledging that both powers would work for a "normalization of relations".

March – U.S. 101st Airborne Division leaves Vietnam. (3/10) *The Senate approves a constitutional amendment banning discrimination against women because of their sex and sent the measure to the states for ratification. (3/22) *The United States suspends the

Paris Peace Talks until North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front enter into "serious discussions".(3/23) *Eastertide Offensive begins as North Vietnamese forces launch the biggest attacks in four years across the demilitarized zone and into the northern provinces of South Vietnam.(3/30)

April -- Battle of An Loc begins.(4/7) *The United States responds to the Eastertide Offensive on April 15 by the resumption of the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong after a four year lull. *Widespread antiwar demonstrations occur across the United States.(4/15-20) *Paris Peace Talks resume.(4/27)

May -- The North Vietnamese conquer Quang Tri City.(5/1) *The United States suspends the Paris Peace Talks.(5/4) * President Nixon announces the mining of North Vietnamese ports.(5/8) *Alabama Governor George C. Wallace, campaigning for the presidency at a Laurel, MD. shopping center, is shot and seriously wounded. Arthur H. Bremer is sentenced to 63 years for shooting Wallace and three bystanders.(5/15) *In the first visit of a U.S. President to Moscow, Nixon arrives for a week of summit talks with Kremlin leaders that culminate in a landmark strategic arms pact.(SALT)(5/22) (*Kissinger, in a private meeting with the Vietcong leader, Le Duc Tho, states that the United States is prepared to drop its insistence on the withdrawal of Northern troops from the South. Thieu rejects it.)

June -- Five men are arrested for breaking into the offices of the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C (6/17) *The NVA forces an end to the battle of An Loc. (6/18) *The U.S. Third Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, withdraws from Vietnam.(6/26) *The U.S. 196th Infantry Brigade withdraws from Vietnam.(6/29) (*June -- September, The South Vietnamese, with U.S. air support, recapture Quang Tri City)

July -- General Bruce Palmer, Jr. becomes Acting Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.(7/1) *Paris Peace Talks resume after ten weeks.(7/13)

August -- U.S. Third Battalion, 21st Infantry, withdraws from Vietnam.(8/23)

September -- ARVN forces recapture Quang Tri City.(8/15) *Henry Kissinger conducts secret talks with North Vietnamese diplomats in Paris.(9/26-27)

October -- General Creighton Abrams becomes Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.(10/16) *Peace talks begin in Laos.(10/17) *Kissinger meets with President Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon to secure South Vietnamese support for the pending Paris Peace Accords.(10/19-20)

VIETNAM ERA CHRONOLOGY - Page 21

November - Nixon is reelected President in a landslide over Senator George McGovern.(11/7) *Kissinger and Le Duc Tho put the finishing touches on the Paris Peace Accords.(11/20-21)

December - Paris Peace talks stall.(12/13) *Operation Linebacker II begins - full scale bombing of North Vietnam.(Hanoi and Haiphong)(12/18-29) *United States military personnel in Vietnam declines to 24,000 and a total of 45,926 U.S. military personnel are killed in action to date. Allied military personnel drops to 35,500. SVNAF personnel killed in action to date numbers 195,847.(12/31)

1973

January - Kissinger and Le Duc Tho convene more private negotiations; while President Nixon assures Thieu of "continued assistance in the post settlement period". (1/8-12) *Five of seven defendants in the Watergate break-in trial plead guilty on January 11 and 15, the other two are convicted on January 30. *President Nixon halts all U.S. offensive action against North Vietnam.(1/15) *The Supreme Court rules, in Roe v. Wade, that a state may not prevent a woman from having an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy and that a state could regulate but not prohibit abortion during the second trimester; this decision in effect overturns antiabortion laws in 46 states.(ratified 7-2)(1/22) *Four-party (United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front) Vietnam peace pacts were signed in Paris.(1/27) *The end of the military draft in the U.S. is announced.(1/27) *Elliot L. Richardson becomes Secretary of Defense.(1/30)

February - The first of American POW's are released by North Vietnam.(2/12) *Peace agreement is signed in Laos.(2/21)

March - ROK Capital Division and Ninth Infantry Division withdraw from Vietnam.(3/16) *MACV Headquarters are removed from Vietnam.(3/29) *North Vietnam releases the "last" of United States prisoners of war.(3/29) *The last U.S. troops leave Vietnam.(3/29)

April - Top Nixon aides H.R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, John W. Dean and Attorney General Richard Kleindienst resign on April 30 amidst charges of White House efforts to obstruct justice in the Watergate case.

June - Implementation Accord signed in Paris by the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front.(6/13) *Graham Martin becomes U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam.(6/24) *John Dean, former Nixon counsel, told Senate hearings that Nixon, his staff and campaign aides, and the Justice Department all had conspired to cover-up Watergate facts.(6/25)

July – James Schlesinger becomes Secretary of Defense.(7/2) *President Nixon refuses to release tapes of relevant White House conversations to the Senate hearings on Watergate.(7/23)

August – The United States officially ceased bombing in Cambodia at midnight on August 14 in accord with a June congressional action – all direct American military operations end in all of Indochina.

September – Henry Kissinger becomes Secretary of State. (9/22)

October – Vice President Spiro T. Agnew resigns after pleading no contest to charges of tax evasion on payments made to him by Maryland contractors when he was governor of that state.(10/10) *Gerald Rudolph Ford becomes the first appointed Vice-President under the 25th Amendment.(10/12) *A total ban on oil exports to the United States was imposed by Arab oil-producing nations (OPEC) after the outbreak of an Arab-Israeli War. (10/19-21) *Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned and his Deputy William D. Ruckelshaus and Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox were fired by President Nixon when Cox threatened to secure a judicial ruling that Nixon was violating a court order to turn White House tapes over to Watergate Case Judge John Sirica.(10/20)

November – Leon Jaworski, conservative Texas Democrat, is named by the Nixon administration to be special prosecutor to replace Archibald Cox.(11/1) *Congress overrides Nixon's veto of the War Powers Bill, which curbed the President's power to commit armed forces to hostilities abroad without congressional approval.(11/7) *Some White House tapes are turned over to the court.(11/26)

December – Gerald R. Ford is sworn-in as Vice-President.(12/6) *United States military personnel in Vietnam drops to 50. To date, 46,163 United States military personnel are killed in action. No Allied military personnel remain in Vietnam.(12/31)

1974

February –South Vietnamese offensive against areas long under Communist control begins; retaliation leads to heavy fighting. President Nixon continues to send monetary aid to the Thieu government.

March – OPEC oil export ban is lifted.(3/18)

May – Impeachment hearings are opened against President Nixon by the House Judiciary Committee.(5/9)

July – John D. Ehrlichman and three White House "plumbers" are found guilty of conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. Lewis Fielding, former psychiatrist to Pentagon Papers leaker Daniel Ellsberg, by breaking into his Beverly Hills, Ca. Office(7/12) *The United States Supreme Court rules (8-0) that President Nixon has to turn over 64 tapes of White House conversations sought by Watergate Special Prosecutor

turn over 64 tapes of White House conversations sought by Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski.(7/24) *The House Judiciary Committee, in televised hearings July 24-30, recommend three articles of impeachment against President Nixon. The first charged Nixon with taking part in a criminal conspiracy to obstruct justice in the Watergate cover-up. The second charged that he "repeatedly" failed to carry out his constitutional oath in a series of alleged abuses of power. And the third accused him of unconstitutional defiance of committee subpoenas.

August - Nixon resigns.(8/9) *Vice President Ford is sworn in as the 38th United States President.(8/9) *The House of Representatives votes, without debate, to accept the committee report, which included the recommended impeachment articles.(8/20)

*Congress reduces aid to South Vietnam from \$1 billion to \$700 million.(8/20)

September - General Creighton Abrams dies.(9/4) *An unconditional pardon to ex-President Nixon for all federal crimes that he "committed or may have committed" while President is issued by President Ford..(9/8) *President Ford offers clemency to draft evaders and military deserters.(9/16)

October - General Frederick Weyand becomes Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.(10/3)

December - Combat between NVA and ARVN is conducted in Phuoc Long Province.(12/13) *U.S. military personnel in Vietnam remain at 50.(12/31) *The North Vietnamese leadership adopts a plan to defeat the Thieu government within two years.

1975

January - Ex Attorney General John N. Mitchell and ex presidential advisers - H.R.Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman are found guilty of Watergate cover-up charges.(1/1) *NVA troops take control of Phuoc Long Province, which is north of Saigon..(1/6) *North Vietnam decides on a massive invasion of the South.(1/8) *In Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge lay siege to Phnom Penh.

March - The North Vietnamese capture Ban Me Thout.(3/10) *President Nguyen Van Thieu withdraws ARVN forces from the Central Highlands and the northern provinces.(3/14) *The NVA captures Quang Tri Province.(3/19) *Hue falls to the NVA.(3/26) *Danang falls to the NVA.(3/30)

April - Cambodian President Lon Nol flees Cambodia in the face of the Khmer Rouge invasion.(4/1) *Battle of Xuan Loc.(4/8-20) *Operation Eagle Pull removes United States Embassy personnel from Phnom Penh, Cambodia.(4/11-13) *President Nguyen Van Thieu resigns and flees the country with U.S. dollars. Authority is transferred to General Duong Van Minh.(4/12) *Cambodia falls to Khmer Rouge troops. Khmer Rouge establish Democratic Kampuchea.(4/17) *Operation Frequent Wind evacuates all

VIETNAM ERA CHRONOLOGY - Page 24

American personnel and some South Vietnamese from Vietnam. NVA captures Saigon.(4/29-30) *Vietnam War ends.(4/30)

May - The U.S. Merchant Ship Mayaguez in the Kampuchean waters, the Gulf of Siam, is captured by Cambodian forces.(5/12) In a rescue operation, U.S. Marines attack Tang Island; planes bomb air bases and Cambodia surrenders the ship and crew.(5/12)

*Congress votes to give \$405 million for South Vietnamese refugees. (5/16) (140,000 refugees are flown to the United States.)

June - Illegal CIA operations, including records on 300,000 persons and groups and infiltration of agents into black, antiwar, and political movements, were described by a "blue ribbon" panel headed by Vice President Rockefeller. (6/10)

August - Laos falls to the Pathet Lao.

September 18th - FBI agents capture Patricia (Patty) Hearst, who was kidnapped on February 4, 1974 in San Francisco, with others of the Symbianese Liberation Army. She was indicted for bank robbery and a San Francisco jury convicted her on March 20, 1976.

1976

July - The United States celebrates its Bicentennial.(7/4)

September - The Viking II sets down on Mars' Utopia Plains. (9/3)

November - Jimmy Carter defeats Gerald Ford in the U.S. Presidential Election. (11/4)

Vietnam is renamed - Socialist Republic of Vietnam - SRV.

1977

President Carter pardons most Vietnam War draft evaders, who numbered some 10,000.(1/21)

August - President Carter signs an act creating a new Cabinet-level Energy Department. (8/4)

October - SRV is admitted to the United Nations.

1978

April - The U.S. Senate votes to turn over the Panama Canal to Panama on December 31, 1999; the March 16th vote had given approval to a treaty guaranteeing the area's neutrality after the year 2000. (4/18)

June - SRV joins COMECON, a Soviet Union sponsored economic group.

November - SRV signs the Treaty of Friendship with the Soviet Union.

December - Backed by the Soviet Union, the SRV invades Cambodia and replaces the Khmer Rouge with the People's Republic of Kampuchea, headed by Heng Samrin. (former Khmer Rouge)

1979

February - Chinese forces attack Vietnam, but are repulsed after heavy fighting.

November - Some 90 people, including 63 Americans, are taken hostage November 4th at the American Embassy in Tehran, Iran, by militant student followers of Ayatollah

Khomeini who demanded the return of former Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was undergoing medical treatment in New York City.

1980

January – President Carter announces punitive measures against the Soviet Union, including an embargo on the sale of grain and high technology, in retaliation for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. (1/4)

April – At President Carter's request, the U.S. Olympic Committee votes not to attend the Moscow Summer Olympics. (4/12) *Eight Americans are killed and 5 wounded in an ill-fated attempt to rescue the hostages held by Iranian militants at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. (4/24)

May – Mount St. Helens, State of Washington, erupts May 18, May 25 and June 12, leaving 60 dead and economic losses estimated at nearly \$3 billion.

November – In a sweeping victory, Ronald Wilson Reagan is elected the 40th President of the U.S, defeating incumbent Jimmy Carter. The stunning GOP victory extends to the Congress where Republicans gain control of the Senate and take 33 House seats from the Democrats. (11/4)

December – John Lennon is shot and killed outside his apartment building in New York City. (12/8)

1981

Minutes after the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan on January 20th, the 52 Americans who had been held hostage in Iran for 444 days were flown to freedom following an arrangement in which the United States agreed to return \$8 billion in frozen assets to Iran.

March – President Reagan is shot in the chest by a would-be assassin in Washington, D.C. as he walked to his limousine following an address. His Press Secretary William Brady is also shot. (3/30)

1982

November – The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is unveiled in Washington, D.C. *Lech Walesa, former leader of Solidarity, the Polish labor union is freed after 11 months of internment following the imposition of martial law and the outlawing of Solidarity. President Reagan lifts the U.S. embargo on sales of oil and gas equipment to the Soviet Union. (11/13) *Fighting continues in Cambodia.

1983

On October 23rd, 241 U.S. marines and sailors, members of the multi-national peacekeeping force in Lebanon, are killed when a TNT-laden suicide terrorist blows up Marine Headquarters at Beirut International Airport. Almost simultaneously, a second truck bomb blew up a French paratroop barracks 2 miles away killing more than 40.

U.S. Marines and Rangers and a small force from 6 Caribbean nations invade the Island of Grenada on October 25th, in response to a request from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. After a few days, Grenadian militia and Cuban "construction workers" are overcome, hundreds of U.S. citizens are evacuated safely and the Marxist regime deposed. The U.S. Congress applies the War Powers Resolution, requiring U.S. troops to leave Grenada by December 24.

1984 May – On May 7th, American Vietnam War veterans reach an out of court settlement with seven chemical companies in their class action suit regarding the herbicide Agent Orange.

November – Ronald Reagan is reelected President in the greatest Republican landslide in history, carrying 49 states against Democratic nominee Walter Mondale and Vice President nominee Geraldine Ferraro. (11/6)

1986 May-August – Iran Contra hearings.

December – The Vietnam Communist Party elects Nguyen Van Linh as general secretary; Premier Pham Van Dong and other "old guard" leaders are eased from office.

1987 January – President Reagan produces the nation's first trillion dollar budget. (1/5)

May – An Iraqi warplane missile kills 37 sailors on the frigate U.S.S. Stark in the Persian Gulf; Iraq claims it was an accident. (5/17) *The United States escorts Kuwaiti oil tankers to the Gulf, reflagging them for the United States. *The Iran-Contra Hearings continue – May-August.

August – A mission to Vietnam headed by General John Vessey results in an accelerated program of identifying MIAs.

October – Wall Street crashes. (10/19)

December – President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Washington, D.C. and sign an agreement calling for the dismantling of all 1,752 U.S. and 859 Soviet missiles with a 300 to 3,400 mile range. (12/8) *SRV opens to tourism.

1988 July – A missile fired from the U.S. Navy Warship Vincennes in the Persian Gulf struck and destroyed a commercial Iranian airliner on July 3rd, killing all 290 persons on the plane. The Navy claims that the airliner was mistaken for an Iranian F-14 jet fighter. (7/3)

October – The United Nations General Assembly passes a resolution declaring that Cambodia, after Vietnamese withdrawal, must not return to the "universally condemned policies and practices of the past".

- November - George Bush, vice president under Ronald Reagan, was elected 41st United States President. Bush defeated the Democratic nominee Governor Michael Dukakis, MA. (11/8)
- 1989 March - The largest oil spill in United States history occurs after the Exxon Valdez strikes Bligh Reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound. (3/24)
- April - Vietnam (SRV) promises that its forces will be withdrawn from Cambodia by September.
- May - Former National Security Council staff member Oliver North became the first person convicted in a jury trial in connection with the Iran-Contra Scandal. (5/4)
- August - Legislation passed by Congress to rescue the savings and loan industry is signed into law by President George Bush. (8/9) *Army General Colin Powell is nominated by President Bush to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and becomes the first black to hold the post. (8/10)
- September - Vietnam completes troop withdrawal from Cambodia.
- November - Democrats win most of the top offices at stake and black candidates score major breakthroughs in off-year elections. Lt. Governor L. Douglas Wilder, a Democrat, is elected Governor of Virginia, the nation's first black governor since Reconstruction. Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins, also a Democrat, becomes the first black elected mayor of New York City. (11/7)
- December - United States troops invade Panama overthrowing the government of Manuel Noriega. (12/20)
- 1994 February - President Bill Clinton announces that the United States was lifting its trade embargo against Vietnam. (2/3) *The Vietnamese government turns over to United States officials what are believed to be the remains of 12 United States soldiers. (2/7)