

# CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM, 1961-1964

A conference on "Vietnam: The Early Decisions" will be held at the LBJ Library in Austin, Texas, October 15 - 17, 1993.

Focusing on the years 1961-1964, the conference will examine the early decisions on Vietnam against the general background of the Cold War and the immediate pressure of both the turmoil in Vietnam and the presidential transition in the United States.

Since the 1960s, the transition from JFK to LBJ has attracted a great deal of attention. But it is only now, with sufficient access to archival materials, that scholars can examine this crucial period in depth and illuminate its impact on U.S. policy in Vietnam. Lyndon Johnson became president at a critical moment in the Vietnam War. Ngo Dinh Diem had just been overthrown, and the situation in South Vietnam was highly fluid. Johnson's early decisions committed the United States to the survival of the new regime in Saigon.

What key factors shaped Johnson's Vietnam policies during his first year in office? Did his decisions reverse Kennedy's policies? How did the assumptions and boundaries of Cold War thinking influence Kennedy, Johnson, and their advisers? In exploring these and other issues, "Vietnam: The Early Decisions" should stir wide interest among scholars and the public at large.

## VIETNAM: THE EARLY DECISIONS, 1961 - 1964 A CONFERENCE AT THE LBJ LIBRARY, OCTOBER 15 - 17, 1993

LBJ Library Photo by Cecil Stoughton



"The tone of Ambassador Lodge's statements were optimistic, hopeful, and left the President with the impression that we are on the road to victory. At this point, McCone stated that our estimate of the situation was somewhat more serious."

*From notes taken at President Johnson's first meeting with his advisers on Vietnam, November 24, 1963.*

Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation  
2313 Red River Street  
Austin, TX 78705

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VIETNAM: THE EARLY DECISIONS, 1961 - 1964

# VIETNAM: THE EARLY DECISIONS, 1961 - 1964

## A CONFERENCE AT THE LBJ LIBRARY, OCTOBER 15 - 17, 1993

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration form should be received by the Library by October 1, 1993.

MAIL TO: LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY, 2313 RED RIVER STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705

### VIETNAM: THE EARLY DECISIONS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1993 - 7:30 P.M.

#### Keynote Address

ROBERT A. DIVINE, *The University of Texas at Austin*  
LBJ, the Cold War, and Vietnam

#### Reception

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1993 - 9:00 A.M.

#### The Intellectual and Political Heritage

LARRY E. CABLE, *The University of North Carolina at Wilmington*  
Dogma, Doctrine, and Distortion: The Influence of Intellectual Heritage upon Intelligence and Decisions, 1954-1965

LLOYD C. GARDNER, *Rutgers University*  
Lyndon Johnson and the Political Economy of American Foreign Policy, from the Colorado to the Mekong

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1993 - 11:00 A.M.

#### Beginning Assumptions and Plans

BRIAN VANDEMARK, *U.S. Naval Academy*  
The Kennedy Administration's Assumptions: Sources and Consequences

WILLIAM J. DUIKER, *The Pennsylvania State University*  
Hanoi's Response to American Policy, 1961-1964: Crossed Signals?

LUNCH 12:45 - 2:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1993 - 2:15 P.M.

#### Hanoi and Washington Confront Escalation

GEORGE C. HERRING, *University of Kentucky*  
The Joint Chiefs and the Decisions to Escalate.

LT. COL. ANDREW F. KREPINEVICH, *Office of the Secretary of Defense*  
Military Planning for the Vietnam Conflict, 1961-1964

SUNDAY, OCTOBER, 17, 1993 - 9:30 A.M.

#### The Transition

WILLIAM C. GIBBONS, *George Mason University*  
LBJ: The First Months, October - December, 1963

JOHN M. NEWMAN, *University of Maryland*  
The Transition: The Case for Policy Reversal

LARRY BERMAN, *University of California, Davis*  
The Battle over Historical Interpretation: NSAM 263 and NSAM 273

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1993 - 12:00 P.M.

#### Lunch

#### Comments

Harry J. Middleton, *Lyndon Baines Johnson Library*

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

There is no fee for registration. However, to insure adequate seating at the conference and the luncheons, please return the attached registration card. The reception and luncheons are made possible by a grant from the LBJ Foundation.

#### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Marriott at the Capitol, 701 East 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701, has a block of rooms that will be reserved until Friday, October 1, 1993. After that date, room reservations are on a space-available basis. For reservations call (512) 478-1111 and mention that you are with the LBJ Library guest block. Room rates are \$65.00 for a single and \$75.00 for a double. Other nearby accommodations include the Rodeway Inn-University (512) 477-6395 and the Guest Quarters Hotel (512) 478-7000. Ask for the University of Texas rate.

#### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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