



Husband Killed In Viet Nam

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(AP)

She Wants U.S. To 'Win The War'

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She was reassured by the White House Wednesday that the United States had no intention of pulling out of the Asian hot spot, the Marshall News Messenger said Thursday in a copyrighted story.

Mrs. Theresa Butler Dodson, whose husband, Pfc. Freddy D. Dodson, was killed June 30 in a helicopter crash, sent a letter to the President Monday expressing her fear of a U.S. withdrawal from South Viet Nam.

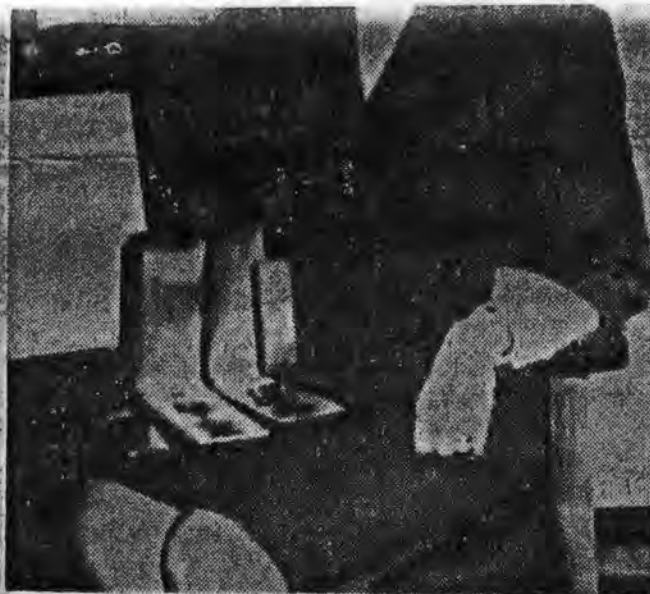
"If you do this," she wrote, "my husband and all the others

war over there. I realize you will not admit that it is a war, but to me it is. Just as important as any of them."

Thursday afternoon Mrs. Dodson, 20, received a direct call from the White House. Presidential assistant Bill Moyers, speaking for the President, explained that he showed her letter to the President at the LBJ ranch Tuesday, and the chief executive instructed him to call and assure Mrs. Dodson that the U.S. would continue its program of aid to South Viet Nam.

Dodson died when his helicopter crashed after the pilot was hit while on a resupply mission, according to word received by his widow and parents.

Dodson's widow questioned Moyers concerning a speedup of aid to the strife-torn country.



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"If you do this," she wrote, "my husband and all the others who have been killed or wounded over there will have died or been maimed for life for nothing."

"I feel that you should send the men and equipment to clear up the mess over there. What if it costs more lives; that is much better than having those that have died so far die for nothing."

"I beg of you to please not let my husband die in vain. Please. If you have any heart at all, you will not let this happen. You will send what is needed to win this

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Dodson's widow questioned Moyers concerning a speedup of aid to the strife-torn country. She reported his reply was: "It's a bit premature to say."

Mrs. Dodson, who would have celebrated her first wedding anniversary Dec. 23, said that in addition to winning the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and Purple Heart, her 24-year-old husband has been accorded another honor in death. She said a library at his former Danang station in South Viet Nam has been named Dodson Hall.