Cold warriors in Vietnam: Mike Mansfield’s role in American foreign policy

Abstract
Following his election to the United States Senate in 1952, Michael Joseph Mansfield (D-MT) exerted tremendous influence on American foreign policy in East Asia, particularly in Vietnam. Throughout the 1950s, his unwavering support of Ngo Dinh Diem, president of South Vietnam, directly influenced the unfolding drama that became another conflagration of the Cold War, eventually claiming the lives of over 58,000 American soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese. Through his tireless efforts to advise three consecutive U.S. Presidents, Mansfield tried to moderate our presence and avoid full-scale war. After Lyndon Johnson escalated the conflict, Senator Mansfield spared no effort to bring the belligerents to the negotiating table. Using an array of secondary sources and extensive research at the Mike Mansfield library in Missoula, Montana, this paper explores the agency and impact of a genuine statesman on the evolution of Cold War policy in Vietnam.

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Mike Mansfield. Quite the same Wikipedia. Just better. Though a supporter of the Administration's foreign policy, he is likely to be strongly critical of the smallness of China's share of Lend-Lease, and of what he fears is the Administration's tendency to regard the Atlantic as more important than the Pacific, and of its apparent reluctance to regard the Chinese as an ally on equal footing. An early supporter of Ngo Dinh Diem, Mansfield had a change of heart on the Vietnam War after a visit to Vietnam in 1962. He reported to John F. Kennedy on December 2, 1962, that US money given to Diem's government was being squandered and that the US should avoid further involvement in Vietnam. Vietnam and the American Political Tradition - February 2003. Mike Mansfield came to Congress in 1943 as the United States put aside isolationism to forge military commitments around the globe. Part of a generation shaped by Munich and Pearl Harbor, Mansfield accepted as imperatives international resistance to aggression, strong presidential leadership, and a bipartisan foreign policy. The United States, he believed, emerged from World War II with a moral vision and a sense of national purpose. "Our goal was the defense of liberty, and the triumph of political and economic freedom." Two foreign policy speeches Mansfield delivered in his last House term talked of the Far East without mentioning Indochina.¹. This Cite this Item. Before arriving in Vietnam, Mansfield stayed in Cambodia and talked to Herbert Spivack, the Counselor of the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh. Spivack chronicled the continuing problems between Cambodia and the United States. Since... Mansfield would oppose him.¹. Humphrey later wrote "what friendship I had with Mike Mansfield had been damaged by my years as Vice President, Cite this Item. Chapter 10 Mansfield's Fifth Visit to Vietnam and Early Efforts to get to the Bargaining Table.