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JAVITS, JACOB K.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE

STEWART E. MCCLURE, CHIEF CLERK
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

February 19, 1966

Mr. Robert L. Allen
201 East 165th Street
Bronx, New York 10456

Dear Mr. Allen:

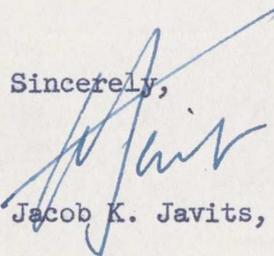
Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of January 28 to Senator McCarthy concerning the Central Intelligence Agency.

As you may know, Senator Stephen Young of Ohio has introduced a bill calling for the establishment of a joint congressional committee to make a continuing study and investigation of the activities and operations of the Central Intelligence Agency. I have joined with Senator Young as a cosponsor of his bill, S. 2815.

I appreciate having the benefit of your views on this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Jacob K. Javits, U.S.S.

JKJ:lgr

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COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE

STEWART E. MCCLURE, CHIEF CLERK
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

Dear Friend:

Thank you for your recent communication concerning U.S. policy in Vietnam. This crisis remains the most pressing and serious issue before our nation. The casualties we are suffering must be agonizing to every American.

First, in Vietnam I believe that we are pursuing limited objectives by limited means, and I will continue to support this policy so long as it remains limited. I am against the escalation of the conflict beyond the present order of magnitude. I am in favor of concentrating U. S. military efforts in the costal areas, Saigon and the Mekong Delta with the intention of consolidating and pacifying these areas as a basis for applying measures of social and economic construction to help the people of Vietnam.

Second, I support the peace offensive and all efforts which may bring this conflict to the peace table. This includes the United Nations and the International Control Commission of the Geneva Conference. To the end of bringing about negotiations, I have urged the President to accept the National Liberation Front (of which the Viet Cong is a part) as an independent negotiating party -- but not the sole one representing the people of Vietnam in the hoped-for peace conference.

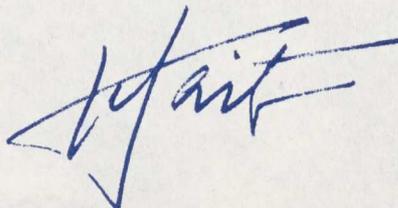
Third, I have urged the President and the Congress to have a full-scale Congressional debate on Vietnam, and have introduced a resolution calling for such debate. In this respect, I support the recent hearings of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Just as it is my duty to let you know my position, it is very helpful for me to know yours.

Due to the large number of interested people who have written me on this subject, I am obliged to answer by a processed letter. I know you will understand.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Jacob K. Javits, U.S.S.

JKJ:hh

306 West 107th Street #5R
New York 25, New York
June 15, 1965

Senator Jacob Javits
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Javits:

The recent decision to make American troops available for "combat support" in the Vietnam war, without prior approval or any discussion of this decision by Congress, violates the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution explicitly delegates to the Congress the sole authority to declare war. With U.S. airplanes daily bombing North Vietnam and U.S. soldiers now becoming actively involved in the Vietnam conflict, there can be little doubt that the United States is waging war - an undeclared and unconstitutional war. I therefore strongly urge you to call for a debate in the Senate on the Vietnam issue. To fail to do so is tantamount to abrogating your responsibilities as a United States Senator. I hope you do not intend to stand idly by and let this situation deteriorate into an all-out American war against the people of Asia.

I strongly recommend that you urge President Johnson to take the following steps immediately:

1. Call a moratorium on air attacks on North Vietnam. These attacks have clearly failed in their purpose, and to continue them is not only an unconstitutional act of war, but also increases the possibility that they may trigger an international catastrophe.
2. Encourage the South Vietnamese Government to seek a negotiated settlement by every possible means in order to create an independent government in Vietnam and to bring about the withdrawal of American troops.

Only the firm efforts of Senators like yourself can prevent this country from falling into the holocaust of a major war in Asia. I sincerely trust that you will take upon yourself the responsibilities delegated to you by the Constitution, and demand that Congress debate the Vietnam issue before it is too late.

Respectfully yours,

Robert L. Allen, Jr.