

External assessment 2021

Stimulus book

Modern History

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.



Queensland
Government



Queensland Curriculum
& Assessment Authority

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Source 1

Excerpt from a speech made by Robert Menzies

The Australian Government is now in receipt of a request from the Government of South Vietnam for further military assistance. We have decided — and this has been after close consultation with the Government of the United States — to provide an infantry battalion¹ for service in South Vietnam ... We decided in principle some time ago — weeks and weeks ago — that we should be willing to do this if we received the necessary request from the Government of South Vietnam and the necessary collaboration with the United States.

...

We have not of course come to this decision without the closest attention to the question of defence priorities ... Our alliances ... make demands upon us ... We have to bear in mind, and make preparations against, the possibility of other developments in the region.

Source: Commonwealth of Australia 1965, *Parliamentary Debates*, House of Representatives (R Menzies, prime minister).

Context statement

Robert Menzies made these remarks in the Australian Parliament while he was prime minister of Australia.

Source 2

Excerpt from an article in *Australia R&R*

In announcing the decision to send troops ... [Robert Menzies] stated that his Government acted upon such a request, although it was never in fact produced. As it transpired, there had been no such request. Rather, the Government of [South Vietnam, led by] Dr Phan Huy Quat had agreed to the despatch of Australian troops after this had been arranged between the Australian and American Governments and he himself had been pressured into acceptance. The Menzies Government saw a request as necessary in order that Australian action could be explained under the terms of the SEATO² Treaty — which precluded action by member countries like Australia on the territory of [other member] states such as South Vietnam except at the specific request of their governments.

Source: Grey, J 1991, 'Vietnam as history: The Australian case' in *Australia R&R: Representation and reinterpretations of Australia's war in Vietnam*.

Context statement

Jeffrey Grey was an Australian military historian. He wrote two volumes of *The Official History of Australia's Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948–1975*.

1 military unit, typically consisting of several hundred soldiers

2 Southeast Asia Treaty Organization; an international organisation for collective defence in South-East Asia; Australia was a member country of SEATO

Source 3

Excerpt from a ministerial statement made by Robert Menzies

[In] South Vietnam the continued instability of government has made the task of resistance [against communist forces in North Vietnam] more difficult ... The aggressive attitude of North Vietnam towards South Vietnam is demonstrated by continued political and ideological support given to the military insurgents³, and the infiltration of thousands of trained men.

...

If Indonesian attacks continue [against Malaysia and other parts of South-East Asia] ... we must prepare for all eventualities including the ... defence of the frontier between West New Guinea and the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.⁴ Meanwhile, by his cultivation of the Communist powers, [Indonesian] President Sukarno is exercising an influence in South East Asia which could weaken resistance to Communism.

...

The question of Army *manpower* is more difficult ... [The Australian Government believes] the Regular Army should be built up as rapidly as possible from the present 22 750 to an effective strength of 33 000 men, which means a total force of 37 500.

...

The [Australian] Government has therefore decided that there is no alternative to the introduction of selective compulsory service [the National Service scheme] ...

Source: Commonwealth of Australia 1964, 'Defence Review: Ministerial statement — speech', *Parliamentary Debates*, House of Representatives (R Menzies, prime minister).

Context statement

Robert Menzies made these remarks on 10 November 1964 while he was prime minister of Australia. Legislation leading to the creation of the National Service scheme was passed on 24 November 1964. Australia's National Service scheme from 1964 to 1972 required 20-year-old men, if selected, to serve in the Army for two years. From 1965, national servicemen could be sent overseas.

3 people fighting against a civil authority or an established government

4 name given to the territory then controlled by the Australian Government

Source 4

Excerpt from an article in *The Strategist*

Although always associated with the Vietnam War, the [National Service] scheme was not introduced principally with Vietnam in mind ... [The Australian Government's] main concern was *Konfrontasi*, Indonesia's confrontation of the new Federation of Malaysia [which took place from 1963 to 1966]. Australia had already committed an infantry battalion and other forces to support Malaysia. A strong, but seldom expressed, fear in Canberra was that [Indonesia] might not only escalate its low-level conflict with Malaysia, but also take on Australia directly ... [in what is today called] Papua New Guinea but then administered by Australia.

...

The [Australian] army hadn't sought national service ... The army also knew that any form of compulsory overseas service would be controversial, reflecting on the army's own standing in society. The army's hand was effectively forced by the government.

Source: Edwards, P 2015, 'The Nashos and Vietnam', *The Strategist*.

Context statement

Peter Edwards was the official historian and general editor of *The Official History of Australia's Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts, 1948–1975*.

Source 5

Excerpt from an editorial in *The Canberra Times*

‘All the way with LBJ [Lyndon Baines Johnson]’ is a catchy campaign slogan, but there is a danger that it will be misinterpreted when used by the leader of a friendly nation [Harold Holt, prime minister of Australia] to express his admiration for the President [of the United States of America, Lyndon Baines Johnson]. It does not mean, and it could not have been meant to mean, that for Australia it is America right or wrong, that where America goes there go we, that we are a satellite tied to the sun. The fact is that our interests coincide very closely [in connection with the Vietnam War], but it would be absurd to suggest that we can commit ourselves in a blind promise to go ‘all the way with LBJ’. That is not Australia.

It is a pity that this side of the Prime Minister’s speeches has overshadowed some of the other points he made. He did not only throw out pleasantries, poetry and praise. He told Americans that Australians stood on their own feet, and had never turned to America for economic aid; that Australia is in Vietnam not because we simply go along with everything America wants to do, but because we feel it is the right course in our own national interests. Australians, he said, had a record as an independent-minded people.

Source: *The Canberra Times* 1966, ‘Mr Holt in America’.

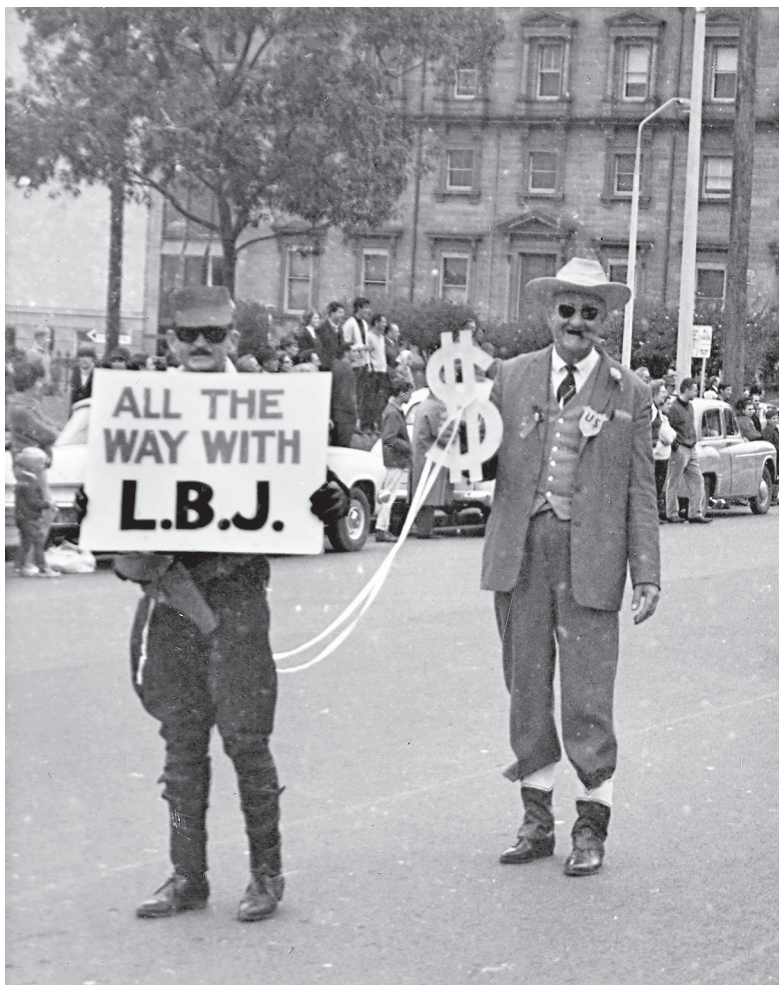
Context statement

This editorial⁵ was published days after Harold Holt publicly declared, while in the United States of America, that Australia was ‘All the way with LBJ’ in the Vietnam War. In 1966, *The Canberra Times* was owned by a Sydney-based media company. Most of the newspaper’s readers lived or worked in Canberra.

5 newspaper editor’s commentary on a topical issue

Source 6

Photograph of Waterside Workers' Federation Vietnam War protest march, Sydney, October 1966



Source: Australian National University 2012, *All the Way with LBJ* (photograph).

Context statement

The two people in the centre of this photograph were members of the Waterside Workers' Federation (WWF) in Australia, an organisation believed at the time to have ties to the Communist Party of Australia. One person is holding a sign that reads 'All the way with LBJ' and is dressed in a military uniform. The other person is posing as US President Johnson, wearing a cowboy hat, smoking a cigar and holding a dollar sign that is tied to the other person. This protest march, organised by the WWF, took place while President Johnson was touring parts of Australia.

Source 7

Excerpt from an article in *The Australian Army and the Vietnam War 1962–1972*

In the military context, the term ‘civic action’ is described thus:

The purpose of [the] military civic action program is to utilise armed forces’ resources for constructive civilian activities such as assisting in health, welfare, and public works projects, improving living conditions, alleviating suffering and improving the economic base of the country.

...

Civic action [conducted by the Australian military forces] had long-term political and military objectives. Its primary aim was to win the support of the South Vietnamese people for their government in Saigon; a subsidiary aim from the Australian viewpoint was to obtain goodwill towards Australian forces in [South Vietnam] and Australia generally.

...

Former [Civil Affairs] Unit [Commanding Officer] Peter Gration believed from the outset that in the environment the Australian Army found itself operating in, the primary goal of winning support for the ... local and Saigon governments was incapable of achievement.

Source: Smith, B 2002, ‘The role and impact of civil affairs in South Vietnam 1965–1971’ in P Dennis & J Grey (eds), *The Australian Army and the Vietnam War 1962–1972*.

Context statement

Barry Smith served in the Vietnam War as a liaison officer with the 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit (1969–1970).

Source 8

Excerpt from press statement read by Malcolm Fraser

The Australian Task Force⁶ in Phuoc Tuy Province will expand its civic action program ... Such tasks by the Australian Army are only a small part of the overall civic aid given to South Viet Nam by the Australian Government ...

The Task Force is achieving excellent co-operation with Vietnamese officials in their area. These villagers have been harassed and taxed by the Viet Cong⁷ for many years and are short of essential goods. Salt and rice captured by the Australians in the Phuoc Tuy Province is already being re-distributed to the villagers in a manner which prevents it getting back into Viet Cong hands.

In the Phuoc Tuy Province, the main target for civic action is a major village which has had no medical supplies or a doctor for more than 15 years. The first project commenced was a modest dispensary building which must be equipped with simple type toilet facilities and ample clean water. The next project is a central market place designed in the local style and a later proposed project is a new school.

Source: Fraser, M 1966, *Australia and South-East Asia*, University of Melbourne Archives.

Context statement

Malcolm Fraser was minister for the Australian Army in 1966. He read this press statement on 2 August 1966 after inspecting the Australian military forces in South Vietnam in June 1966.

6 also called the 1st Australian Task Force; this group commanded the Australian and New Zealand Army units that were sent to South Vietnam between 1966 and 1972

7 a political organisation in South Vietnam with its own army that fought against the United States of America and South Vietnamese governments during the Vietnam War

Source 9

Excerpt from an article in *Australian Army Journal*

[From June 1965 until May 1966, in and near Biên Hòa Province, the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment] distributed clothes ... footwear and food, both fresh and tinned. The medical and dental aid provided kept the programme going, as the food and clothing handouts ... were a dismal failure. Some villagers and children fought over the handouts ...

The village elders were visibly upset by the spectacle, and after two visits this type of Civic Action halted. [One of the chiefs of a village in Biên Hòa Province] then indicated that it would be more sensible if he were permitted to distribute the food ... The Chief's advice was accepted, and results were immediate. The Chief's house was used as the centre both for 'Medcap'⁸ and 'Dentcap'⁹ and for the distribution of food and clothing. In this way also the importance of the role of local government ... was emphasized.

...

At Ong Huong [a village in Biên Hòa province] the Chief decided that the most pressing [priority] ... was a school ... So we [1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment] went ahead with a two-roomed school.

...

By May 1966 ... [Ong Huong], which had at best been apathetic a year earlier, was so pro-government that when eight VC [Viet Cong] one night attempted to enter it the Popular Forces (PF)¹⁰ from [Ong Huong] ambushed them, killing two, wounding others, and capturing two weapons. In the past the VC had been allowed free movement.

Source: Arnison, PM 1967, 'Civic action in Vietnam 1965–66', *Australian Army Journal*.

Context statement

Peter Arnison was a member of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in South Vietnam. The excerpt describes Arnison's experiences in the Vietnam War.

8 Medical Civic Action Program

9 Dental Civic Action Program

10 groups of local people in South Vietnam who protected their home villages from attacks by the Viet Cong and other military forces

Source 10

Excerpt from the Department of Veterans' Affairs webpage 'Civilian aid'

Australian forces in Vietnam sought victory against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army on the battlefield, but also through engagement with local people ... This approach involved earning the support of the people upon whom the Viet Cong in particular depended for sustenance and shelter. However, popular support for the South Vietnamese Government, meant to be a rallying point for those opposed to communism, was very low. Few South Vietnamese gave their loyalty to a corrupt and incompetent regime whose military forces had proved unable to defend them.

...

Early projects involved practical measures, such as the distribution of medical and dental aid. Vietnamese villagers were consulted about the type of projects that the people wanted and were assured that the Australians were there to help them.

...

[Civic] action contributed to gaining the support of people in Phuoc Tuy Province. But these activities were also compromised by the reality of operations, misunderstanding of the local culture and people and their needs, and the crucial fact that the South Vietnamese Government was too deeply unpopular for programs of this type to ever result in it gaining widespread support. However dedicated to the task the Australians may have been, the obstacles to success during a bloody guerrilla war¹¹ were ultimately too great to overcome and the withdrawal of Australian forces in 1972 meant the end of such projects.

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs 2019, 'Civilian aid', *Anzac Portal*.

Context statement

The Department of Veterans' Affairs delivers government programs for former members of the Australian Army.

¹¹ a form of warfare in which small groups of combatants use tactics — including ambushes, sabotage and raids — to fight a larger and less mobile traditional army

References

Source 1

Excerpted from Commonwealth of Australia 1965, Parliamentary Debates, House of Representatives, 29 April, no. 17 (R Menzies, Prime Minister), pp. 1060–61, https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/hansard80/hansardr80/1965-04-29/toc_pdf/19650429_reps_25_hor45.pdf Available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia licence (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

Source 2

Grey, J 1991, 'Vietnam as history: The Australian case' in *Australia R&R: Representation and reinterpretations of Australia's war in Vietnam, special edition of Vietnam Generation*, vol. 3, no. 2, J Doyle & J Grey (eds), pp. 27–28, <http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/vietnamgeneration/vol3/iss2/1>.

Source 3

CExcerpted from Commonwealth of Australia 1964, 'Defence Review: Ministerial statement — speech', *Parliamentary Debates*, House of Representatives, 10 November (R Menzies, Prime Minister), pp. 2715, 2717 <https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22hansard80%2Fhansardr80%2F1964-11-10%2F0082%22> Available under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia licence (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

Source 4

Edwards, P 2015, 'The Nashos and Vietnam', *The Strategist*, 12 March, www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-nashos-and-vietnam Used in accordance with copyright notice at <https://www.aspi.org.au/basic-page/copyright>

Source 5

Excerpt from *The Canberra Times* 1966, 'Mr Holt in America', 2 July, p. 2, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/107879788> © The Canberra Times/ACM . Used with permission.

Source 6

Unknown photographer 1966 *All the way with LBJ* (photograph), <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/9074>
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Used with permission.

Source 7

Smith, B 2002, 'The role and impact of civil affairs in South Vietnam 1965–1971' in P Dennis & J Grey (eds), *The Australian Army and the Vietnam War 1962–1972*, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, Canberra, pp. 229–239. https://www.army.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/2002_chief_of_army_conf_-_vietnam_war_1.pdf.
Used by permission of the Australian Army History Unit.

Source 8

Fraser, M 1966, *Australia and South-East Asia* (speech transcript), 2 August, University of Melbourne Archives, Malcolm Fraser collection, item number 2007.0023.00494 pp. 3–4, <http://hdl.handle.net/11343/78872>
Used with permission.

Source 9

Arnison, PM 1967, 'Civic action in Vietnam 1965–66', *Australian Army Journal*, no. 220, September, pp. 3–6, https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/sites/default/files/aaj_220_sep_1967.pdf Used with permission

Source 10

Department of Veterans' Affairs 2019, 'Civilian aid', *Anzac Portal*, <http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/vietnam-war-1962-1975/events/phuoc-tuy-province/civilian-aid> Creative Commons Attribution 4.0



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