

## Ho Chi Minh's Letter to Johnson

This letter from Ho Chi Minh was a response to a message from Johnson, who wanted to begin negotiations to end the war. Ho Chi Minh stated that he would not negotiate until the United States stopped bombing Vietnam.

To His Excellency Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson,  
President, United States of America

Your Excellency,

Vietnam is thousands of miles away from the United States. The Vietnamese people have never done any harm to the United States. But contrary to the pledges made by its representative at the 1954 Geneva Conference, the U.S. Government has ceaselessly intervened in Vietnam, it has unleashed and intensified the war of aggression in South Vietnam with a view to prolonging the partition of Vietnam and turning South Vietnam into a neo-colony and a military base of the United States. For over two years now, the U.S. Government has, with its air and naval forces, carried the war to North Vietnam, an independent and sovereign country.

The Vietnamese people deeply love independence, freedom and peace. But in the face of the U.S. aggression, they have risen up, united as one man, fearless of sacrifices and hardships; they are determined to carry on their resistance until they have won genuine independence and freedom and true peace. Our just cause enjoys strong sympathy and support from the peoples of the whole world including broad sections of the American people.

The U.S. Government has unleashed the war of aggression in Vietnam. It must stop this aggression. That is the only way to restoration of peace. The U.S. Government must stop definitively and unconditionally its bombing raids and all other acts of war against North Vietnam, withdraw from South Vietnam all U.S. and satellite troops, and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs.

Sincerely,  
Ho Chi Minh

sovereign: self-ruling