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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

RON M. LINTON, CHIEF CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR

August 4, 1965

Mr. Martin R. Haase
Pilot Point
Brooksville, Maine

Dear Mr. Haase:

Thank you for your letter of July 27 regarding the situation in Vietnam.

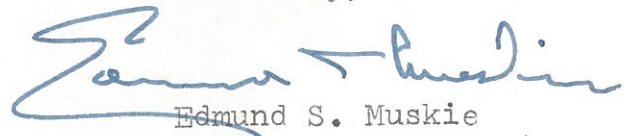
I appreciate your taking time to write to me expressing your views of U. S. policy in Vietnam, and your concern and interest in this vital area. Your position, as I understand from your letter, is that of opposition to the bombings and increases of troops in Vietnam.

It is my feeling that our commitment in Vietnam has roots which have deepened steadily over the last ten years. We are faced, at this time, with either complete withdrawal from Vietnam or increased involvement in an effort to establish and strengthen a free government in South Vietnam, and bolster their defenses against the North Vietnamese-supported Viet Cong. This escalation presents a decisive and highly significant step in our relations with this troubled country, and, indeed, all of Southeast Asia.

I am deeply concerned over the situation and the implications of our present policy, however, I have confidence in the President and in his efforts to arrive at a peaceful and workable settlement in Vietnam. As President Johnson said in his recent press conference: "Once the Communists know, as we know, that a violent solution is impossible, then a peaceful solution is inevitable. We are ready now, as we have always been, to move from the battlefield to the conference table."

I want to thank you for bringing your views to my attention, and communicating the concern you feel.

Sincerely,



Edmund S. Muskie
United States Senator