

Johnson Is Backed By Freedom House On Vietnam Policy

The "silent center," most of the American people, should be heard from on Vietnam, Freedom House said yesterday in a "Credo of Support" for the Johnson Administration's policies in Southeast Asia.

The declaration, issued by the organization's public affairs committee, asserted that "the critics of the President have had the field to themselves" and that the "distorted picture" of American public opinion has "undoubtedly affected the decisions of the Communist rulers in Hanoi and Peking."

Freedom House, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study and promotion of freedom, has 3,000 members. Its headquarters are at 20 West 40th Street.

In the belief "that the American people would like to see their real views proclaimed," the organization asserted:

¶ American withdrawal from Vietnam "under present circumstances" would be morally indefensible.

¶ The decision to halt Communist aggression is "clearly in the interest" of the United States and the other nations.

¶ Help by Australia, New Zealand and South Korea is welcomed.

¶ The United States is not embarked on a military crusade against Communist nations.

¶ The United States military effort is only part of the nation's program to aid the Vietnamese.

¶ There is no hope for a world run by reason "until the force of lawlessness is checked."

Members of the association's public affairs committee include Leo Cherne, economist and writer; Roscoe Drummond, writer; Harry D. Gideonse, president of Brooklyn College; Whitney North Seymour, lawyer, and Rex Stout, author.

"In expressing gratitude for the statement President Johnson said he believed the declaration "reflects the strong opinion of most Americans."

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