

MANUEL LUJAN, JR.  
1ST DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

April 28, 1971

Eliot and Aline Porter  
Route 4, Box 33  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Eliot and Aline:

Thank you for your communication requesting my work to end our country's involvement in Vietnam.

While no plan so far is entirely acceptable, I believe present policy is as satisfactory as any that the difficult situation will allow. The President has assured us that he will end our participation and invites citizens to hold him accountable if he fails.

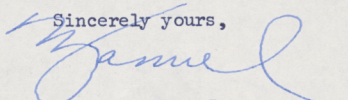
I was not a Member of the Congress when the "Tonkin Gulf Resolution" was introduced and passed. It gave the previous President a virtual blank check for conducting our policies in Vietnam. This has now been repealed without objection from this Administration.

Progress has been made in winding down our involvement since 1968, and it will continue. The casualty rate is reduced to less than 20% of the one at that time. Almost one-half of our troops are withdrawn and this will be increased to 2/3 by December 1.

Perhaps it is not as fast as we would like; it is not the "easy way out". But the objective is to build a peace, not only now but for the future. This calls for resolution by all Americans to see this through so that it strengthens our credibility at home and around the world, so that it redeems the sacrifices made, and so that it heals the nation and does not tear it apart by permitting later recrimination. I believe it is the best way out, and you can be confident that I am working to see this achieved as soon as possible.

I appreciate the time you took to let me know your views, and hope that you will continue to advise me about your opinions on the issues. Please do not hesitate to let me know whenever I can be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Manuel Lujan, Jr.

ML/ck