

Kennedy's Involvement



Diem's Elitist Views



- Little understanding of the problems for needs of the Vietnamese people.
- Rebellion Grew
- National Liberation Front known as the Vietcong.

Kennedy's Commitment to Communism

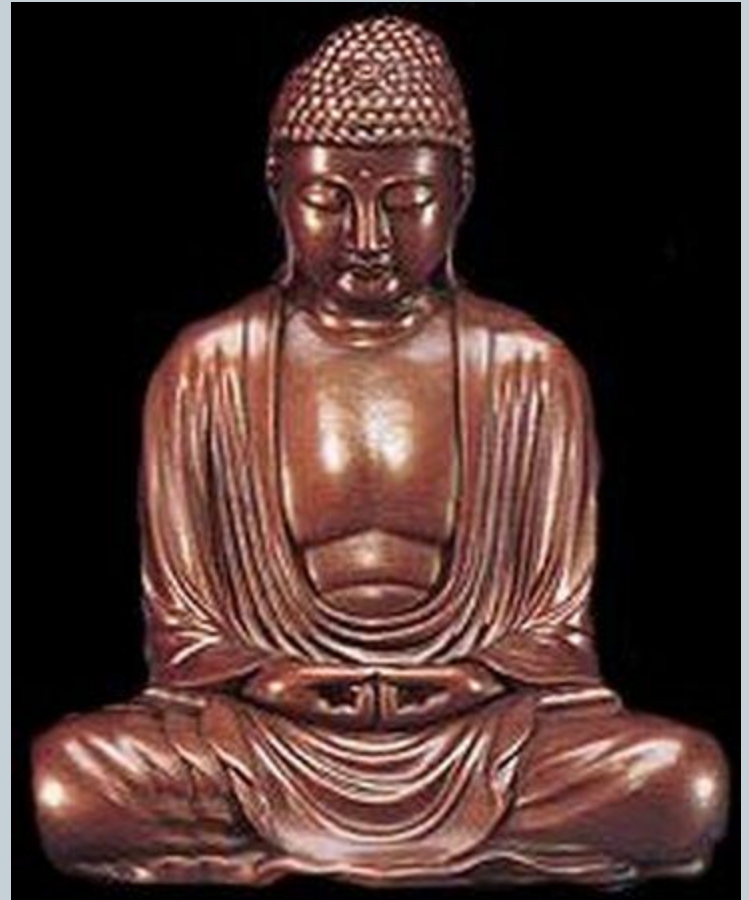
- Kennedy inherited Eisenhower's problem.
- Committed to containing communism



Diem's Rule



- Lacked support from his country
- Forced Buddhists to obey Catholic laws
- Imprisoned critics
- Filled government positions with family
- Forced peasant from their ancestral land to government-run farms.



Protests



- Kennedy pressured Diem to make reforms
- Buddhists demonstrated their resistance of Diem's rule.
- Buddhist monk, Thich Quang Duc, set himself on fire in a busy Saigon street.
- Diem blamed the Vietcong

Coup to Remove Diem



- Kennedy knew Diem could no longer rule
- U.S. officials and Henry Cabot Lodge gave Vietnamese military officials the o.k. to remove Diem from Power
- November 1963, he was captured in a coup and assassinated while trying to escape



Robert McNamara



- Secretary of Defense
- Business background
- Cut costs while modernizing the armed forces
- Pulled the military away from their dependence on nuclear weapons to more of a “flexible response” in a military crisis.

