Johnson Becomes Involved
Committed to Containment

- Meeting with Henry Cabot Lodge
- Choices to Make
- “I am not going to be the President who saw Southeast Asia go the way China went.”
Military Rule

- Diem’s Successors
  - Big Minh
- Vietcong
- 5,000 more troops sent
- Taking the war to the North
Incident in the Gulf of Tonkin

- The night of August 2, 1964
- Gulf of Tonkin, 30 miles off the coast of North Vietnam
- U.S. Destroyer, the *Maddox*
- “Open aggression on the high seas”
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

• “Take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and prevent further aggression.”

• Gave Johnson nearly complete control

• “Grandma’s nightshirt”