EXTRAORDINARY POWERS



- 0. EXTRAORDINARY POWERS Story Preface
- 1. WHAT ARE THE PENTAGON PAPERS?
- 2. LEAKS TO THE PRESS
- 3. WHO SUPPORTED THE WAR?
- 4. THE ASSASSINATION PLOT
- 5. DEATH OF A PRESIDENT
- 6. THE GULF OF TONKIN
- 7. A SECOND ATTACK?

8. EXTRAORDINARY POWERS

- 9. THE TRUTH ABOUT TONKIN
- 10. CASE DISMISSED
- 11. THE VERDICT OF HISTORY



With few questions asked about its justification, by the Congress or the national media, the <u>Gulf of Tonkin</u> <u>Resolution</u> became law. It gave President Johnson the authority he wanted to direct U.S. military affairs in Vietnam. This document, now <u>maintained by the U.S. National Archives</u>, allowed U.S. involvement in Vietnam to drastically increase.

On August 7th, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. It was as close as America would ever come to actually declaring war on North Vietnam.

The President <u>signed</u> the resolution before a standing-room <u>crowd</u> on August 10th. Within a week, his power had dramatically increased. He had moved from providing military advisor support in South Vietnam to doing whatever he thought was necessary.

For the most part American journalists, barely questioning what was really going on, <u>reported</u> whatever government officials told them.

Full-scale war, with many American casualties, was just around the corner.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

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Media Stream



<u>President Johnson - Signing the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution</u> Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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