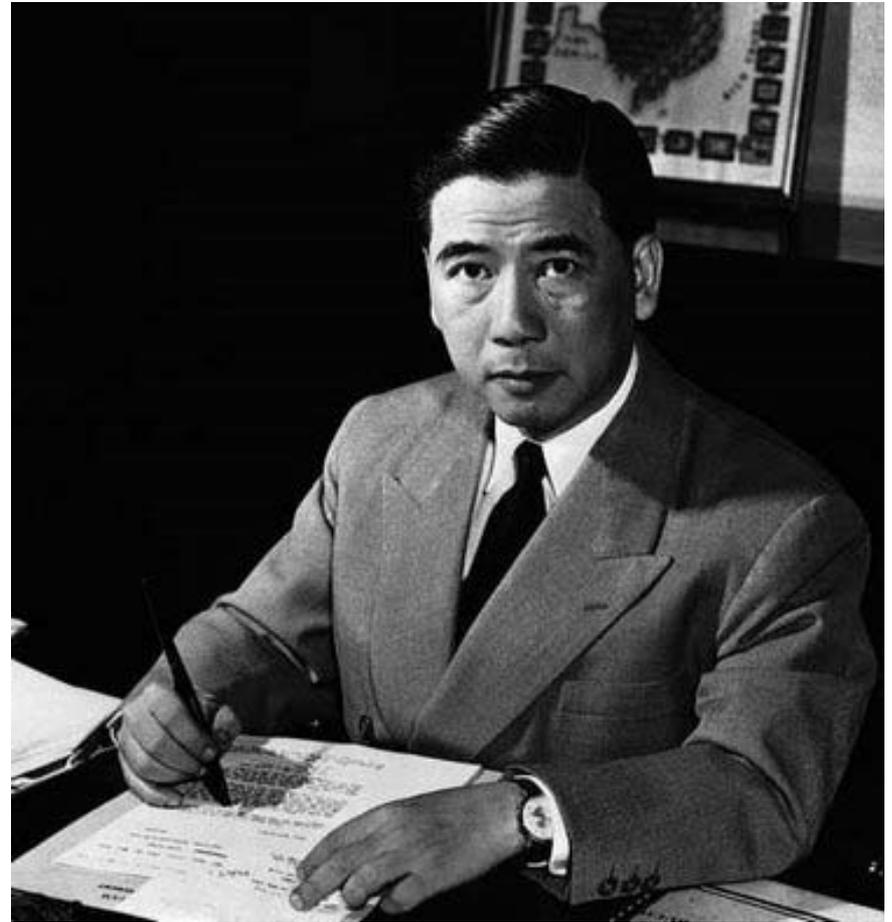


# A Failure to Communicate: How Elbridge Durbrow changed America's Vietnam Experience





Recommended a reduction in the military aid to the Republic of Vietnam at a time of increased communist insurgent activity

Withheld critical information  
regarding opposition groups  
in Saigon





Withheld critical information regarding allegations of corruption with the government and Cần Lao Party

Blocked Ngô Đình Diệm's request to have Americans who he trusted visit the Republic of Vietnam.





*Ngô Đình Diệm, President of South Vietnam.*

**Reported only  
conversations with  
Vietnamese that were  
negative concerning Ngô  
Đình Diệm**

**Initiated rumors that implied a parting of the ways between the United States and Ngô Đình Diệm**





**Offered conflicting and out-of-touch advice to Ngô Đình Diệm and mused to reporters in an off-the-record press conference after the abortive November coup d'état that he could not understand why the paratroopers had just not finished the job**

**Generally attempted to bully Ngô Đình Diệm into initiating reforms within the country for which Vietnam was either not ready or willing to commit.**

