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Foster S. Knight
(Signature - Interviewee)

(Address)

DATE: _____

Helma Knight
(Signature - Witness)

AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH: FOSTER KNIGHT

CONDUCTED BY: MELINDA MARTIN

DATE OF INTERVIEW: OCTOBER 13, 1990

SUBJECT: WV VIETNAM VETERANS

TRANSCRIBED & TYPED BY: GINA KEHALI KATES

MM: ...and I'm having an interview with Mr. Foster Knight, West Virginia Vietnam Veteran, from Craigsville, West Virginia. It is October 13, 1990. First of all, just tell me....when you, your, your first tour in Vietnam, give me some of your background, like where in West Virginia were you from, where you were stationed over there, what was your position, how old you were.....

FK: Well, uh, I was only, my duty station was Paris Island, South Carolina. I was a drill instructor. In 1966 I received orders for Vietnam. And uh, my family, they stayed here in Paris Island. So I went to Vietnam in '66 for a thirteen month tour of duty, came back in '67. And naturally, I hated to leave my family. But it was my duty. And....

MM: You made a career....that was a career, right?

FK: I'm a career marine, so I was being paid to go where they sent me. And I went to Vietnam in '66.

MM: Okay. And how old were you...how old? You were already a....I mean, you, what was your?

FK: I was a staff sergeant at the time. And I was probably about 33 years old.

MM: Okay. And what was, once you got to Vietnam, that was your duty to uh, you....

FK: Uh, from Paris Island, I went to Camp LeJunue, or not, as you were, I went to Camp Pendleton, California and I picked up a unit to take through advanced training in California. And I was there for six weeks with this unit, undergoing advanced training. Near the end of the training period, my company commander asked me if I would like to be an escort overseas. And I didn't know what an escort was or what it might entail. So I said, "Yes." And so, I got to Vietnam. I reported to the uh, the Press Center. And uh, I found out that I

would be escorting civilian press and any and all VIP's that came through the press center. And uh, I probably, during my year in Vietnam, I probably escorted somewhere around 600 people in to different areas of Northern Vietnam, [inaudible]....

MM: Uh, did you uh, how did...is that like when you met John Wayne and all these people?

FK: Yes, I met a number of movie stars. John Wayne was one of them. Glen Ford, uh....I was trying to think...there's so many....Hugh O'Brien, Martha Raye, Bob Hope....

MM: Did they...whenever they had those...I don't know exactly how they set them up. But they were the entertainers I guess

FK: Most all of them...most all of them would come through the press center. And of course, you know, the Marine Corps gave them good coverage. And most all of them would come through the press center. And if they wanted to go into the field where the Marines were, it was my job to take them, take them there and get them back, safe.

MM: Okay, and..... Since you were uh, there in '66, did youwhat was your interpretation of, of why we were there, or why we were in this war? Because I think they started sending troops in '65. (**FK:** Yes, it was '65) Did you, what was your I guess, perception at the time about the situation? What was your outlook?

FK: Well....all I knew was that uh, that uh, we were going to uh, Vietnam to stop the communist aggression into the south Vietnam. And uh, I've always uh, been very, very patriotic. And so, like I say, it was my duty to go. And I had no qualms about going. But uh, that, answering your question, I was under the impression that we were there to stop the communist aggression. But uh, it turned out that uh, you know, we were in, we were in a war. And we were fighting and dying, but our hands were tied in so many ways. For

example, before we could get a formation on an enemy position, we had to call back-, it had to be cleared all the way back through division headquarters.

MM: And that's not normal....

FK: That's not normal. Shouldn't be. And in a wartime situation, if you have an enemy position, you should be able to fire on 'em. Our hands were tied in so many ways, that uh, it, it just got to the point that you were disgusted because you couldn't, you didn't, you couldn't fight the enemy. You very seldom seen the enemy. And you really didn't know who the enemy were, because they all look alike. And so uh, of course, the higher command, they were concerned about blowing away civilians and innocent people. And I can understand that. But the enemy, they intermingled with the villagers and uh, they were in a village firing at you, and you couldn't fire back. So it really got, got to the point that you were, you know, just disgusted....

MM: Was that, that situation like that, throughout the whole time, just about, from... 'til you got out, I mean. Until '75?

FK: Yeah. That's the way it was the entire two years that I spent in Vietnam. I was there from '66 to '67, [coughs] excuse me. Then I went back in '70 and '71. And it was the same
(MM: Situation?) same situation, same ball game.

MM: By the time you went back in '70, '71, what was your, I mean, what was it like? What was your attitude then, or....?

FK: Well....

MM: What did you do...what was your....duty then?

FK: Well, the second tour of duty I was company gunnery sergeant in the field. I had a

company of 120 men. It was my responsibility for their training, morale, uh...bullets, bandages and food, what have you, you know. But uh, it, it was, it was basically the same. We had to be careful. Our hands were tied, to a certain point. We couldn't, we didn't have, there were no free, free fire zones. We had to get clearance before we could fire into a village. And uh, the VC knew this. And so, they would hide behind the women and children and fire at the Marines. And we couldn't fire back. So uh, that, we did a lot of, we did a lot for the Vietnamese people. We had a civic action type program going that we called a county fair. We would encircle the whole village early in the morning. We'd land by helicopters and completely surround the village, hoping to catch the bad guys in the village. So, after we had the village surrounded, at daybreak we would evacuate. We would move all people out of the village to a centrally located area, and we would treat them for medical, any medical problems they had, we would give them medical aid, feed them. But we'd keep them out of their village all day long while we went through the village and searched for weapons and men. And so uh, this, this was occasionally, occasionally we would come up with uh, huge amounts of rice that were, that were intended for the communist VC. And weapons, we'd come up with weapons. Occasionally we would uh, we would find VC hiding in the village, you know, in tunnels. And uh, so sometimes it paid off. Most of the time it would just, just like the name implies, a county fair, all the villages got food, free food and free medical supplies. But we did a lot for the people. And we all realized that the people themselves are like people all over the world. They're good people, basically. It's not the people that starts the wars. It's the people that die in 'em, that politicians, heads of country, heads of state, are the people that starts the wars.

MM: Do you think any time since you were back in '67, do you think there would have been a time you that they should have stopped earlier, or do you think they should have just....since it last, back in '67 until you went back your 2nd tour, do you think there was a time when they should have just pulled out sooner, or-, the United States? Or should they have just...how would you...what was your...like the diplomacy that was going on through those...

FK: Well, there were, there were a lot of opposition to the war going on in the United States. I mean, we had the border jumpers, people, guys going to Canada to keep from going to Vietnam. And uh, that, there were, in the '60's, there were a lot of drugs in Vietnam. A lot of guys got hooked on drugs. And that, what, what uh, what bothered most of the Marines was the fact that they were over there fighting and you had people back here going to Canada, and maybe getting uh, had a rich daddy or somebody that could get 'em out of the military. So that was pretty hard to stomach.

MM: Did they, did the Marines, did they know or realize about the anti-war movement?
About (FK: Yes) people....

FK: Yeah, they most certainly did. Yeah, we were well aware of it. And like you say, it was, it was, it made us very bitter. And we came back finally, whenever we received orders to come back home. And after we got back home, you know, you could, during the course of a conversation with anyone, you could say, "Well, I've been to Vietnam." They'd say, "Well, big deal. So what."

MM: Did you find that here in West Virginia?

FK: Yeah. Well, no....(MM: But you weren't here in West Virginia?) I wasn't here in West Virginia. I don't think it was that bad in West Virginia. But I found it in other places. And uh,

my first stop, after leaving Vietnam, was Alaska. We landed in Alaska, Anchorage, I think. And of course, in the airport, I think I was in the bar having a drink or something, and uh....you know, talking to somebody and said, "Well, I just got off the plane coming from Vietnam," and like I say, he is responsible, "Big deal." So uh.... It was pretty hard to take. But uh, the Vietnam Vet, I think, is finally getting a little bit of uh, recognition. We've got the war memorial there in DC now. And 55,000 soldiers died, and that's something. But uh, it was a very unpopular war.

MM: Do you think that was a lot since you were with the media in '66. Do you think...well, how do you think...they, you said you had this one article that was, one was good and one was bad. How did they, while you were there with them, how did they write about the war? Were they biased? Or do you think...?

FK: No, they uh, most of 'em, most of the uh, uh, of the press that I escorted throughout Vietnam, were, I mean, they told it exactly the way it was. You know, they didn't, they were real professionals. They didn't add or subtract anything from the story. All the ones [inaudible]....when I was there. They were a good bunch of people.

MM: A good bunch of people. Well uh, what was your attitude toward the North Vietnamese government while the....? I mean....?

FK: They uh, it was my belief that they were the aggressors, and we should put a stop to it, you know, we should go north. Instead of fighting in Vietnam, it was my opinion that they should just turn us loose and say stop after we get to Hanoi, you know. We were up there dropping bombs, bombing the north, but we didn't have no troops up there. (MM: Oh, really?) So uh, I think that the, uh....it was just our government never had no intentions, I

don't believe, of fighting the war to win it. We were there just for uh, I don't know.... I don't know how to put it. Like I said before, it was a politician's war. And uh, it cost a lot of lives. But uh, if uh, if we were there to fight, then we should have been permitted to win, which we wanted to.

MM: Do you think if they would have said, "Okay, go until you take Hanoi", you would have won?

FK: Oh, no doubt. (**MM:** Really?) Yeah. Yeah, without a doubt. The uh, the Vietnamese people, I don't, I'm not up on the history of it. But I know that they'd been fighting for 20 years before we even landed in '65. They were fighting the French. And a lot of the villages that I went into, they'd have a sign up saying, "90,000 Frenchmen dying here. You're next, Marine." (**MM:** Oh, really?) Yeah. So, uh, I do know that they, well, the Frenchmen, they were defeated there at [inaudible]..... We could have won the war if we had been permitted to. But we weren't. And I think it's awful sad that we'd be willing to stand up for the government that was probably corrupt to start with. I'm talking about the South Vietnamese government. So, but if, if we were gonna do that, if we were going in there to fight, we should have fought to win. And we didn't do it.

MM: Well, give me some of your....your reaction for the, the environment, fighting in the jungle. You were showing me some pictures that were, that....

FK: Well, jungle terrain is rough and the heat was unbearable. I mean, I stepped off the plane when I first arrived in Vietnam, and 20 minutes later I was nauseated, dizzy from the heat. And it took me maybe uh...a couple of weeks to kind of climatize to the weather. But a lot of rain. It was all rain and mud and heat, mosquitos's and leaches. At night you freeze to

death. So uh....it, it, it was pretty rough.

MM: But since you were in charge of morale and everything as the sergeant the second time around, how did youimprove the morale, or were you able to, or what was...?

FK: Well, about all I could do was just make the men as comfortable as possible, as I possibly could. And of course, they, you know, the men just realized that there's just so much you can do for them.

MM: And the majority of them were really young, weren't they?

FK: All of them. Basically the average age was probably maybe 19 or 20. Yeah. But uh, but they were real good troopers. Every outfit [inaudible]...ten percent. And I had, had a little problem with the black, black marines. Some of them...in the '60's they were doing their knuckle-knocking, you're too young to know what I'm talking about probably. But they'd come up and they'd check in, they called it checking in. They'd go up to their buddy and they'd start knocking knuckles and elbows and everything. So, it was comical to watch. But it'd take 'em 15 minutes to check in, to say hello, you know. [chuckles] So uh, and the drugs. There were drugs available and some of them used drugs. But uh, far as morale goes, seemed like the men were happier if they, if they, you know, the busier you kept 'em, keep 'em busy and feed 'em good and they didn't have time to worry about home or momma and the kids or their girlfriend or whatever. But that was the key to it, I think, was just keeping them busy.

MM: Well, do you think the reason there was so much anti-war resistance was because the government wasn't letting anybody or wasn't actually letting anybody know, the public know, what was going on until it was almost too late? Or just, was it the media's representation?

Why do you think there was so much?

FK: Well, that's a good question. I don't know how to, how to answer that. I don't know. I don't know how that movement got started. Maybe in Berkeley, I don't know. Everything else seemed to start out there.

MM: I mean, compared to other wars, do you think it was just based on the fact that we didn't win, that it was so spread out and that it was on t.v. and everything? You think that's why people started.....

FK: Uh...I don't, I don't know. I can't imagine what a man was thinking about when he would uh, when he would be willing to skip his country to keep from fighting, fighting for his country. I don't know what would be going through a person's head like that. About the only words that I could say that would describe it would be yellow, you know. But I don't know. But that's..... There, a Marine wrote on a wall on Vietnam, I don't know who wrote it, but it was there. And he wrote that.... "The taste of freedom has a flavor that for those who have never fought for it, will never know." And I thought that was pretty good. But uh, you take the young people in this country. They don't realize how fortunate and lucky they are to be living in a free country. I mean, I've been in different countries, and I know how the people live. And they're so, so, they need so much. They're just so, so poor, that they live in grass huts with no floor in 'em.... And to them, death really doesn't mean too much. Because they really have nothing to live for. But uh, we're so fortunate here in the United States, that you would think that uh, the young people would be willing to sacrifice a little to keep it, to keep it free. But uh, I, most are. Most young people in this country, I think, realize how lucky they are. But there's quite a few that don't.

MM: When you uh, were you, did you....were you there in, I don't know what year it was. But I don't know if I know how to say it right....

FK: The Me Lei incident? The uh, I read about it.

I'm not sure whether that happened when I was there. But that was in a different area of Vietnam. I mean, it wasn't, that didn't happen in my corps. The Marines were, their TAOR, Tactical Area of Responsibility was [redacted] and it's the northern most part boarding the DMZ of the north Vietnam. But the Army was to the south of us, and I'm not sure what, what year that was, the Me Lei incident.

MM: When did you think that....or did you and the men too, think that you, we were going to lose or we were losing at the time? Or did you...was that a perception or did you think....?

FK: Well, we lost the war, because we wouldn't fight, but we never lost a battle. (**MM:** Oh, really?) We never lost a battle. Nothing. And uh, the uh, the North Vietnam, they would send the troops in from the North by the thousands. And there were a lot of pretty stiff fighting, but we never lost a battle.

MM: Well, how did, I mean, that had to be a difficult to adapt to, to know that you're winning all these little scrimmages, but you....you can't go any further to....I mean, it had to get almost monotonous to where you had to..... How did people take that?

FK: Well uh, we would, we would uh, say take a, take a Okay, take a hill or so. And uh, had to fight for what we took. And then we would leave and the bad guys would be there the next day. They just came right back to it, you know. But it was, it was, it wasn't, there wasn't no such thing as trench warfare. I mean, you weren't...you had your [redacted] positions, you know, your base camps, that you operated out

of. But you were always on the move. And we would uh, if we'd get intelligence reports that the enemy was in certain area, then the choppers would come in and pick us up and we would execute what was called a vertical envelopment. We would be dropped by helicopter in behind where the enemy was supposed to be. And then we'd sweep back and we'd have a blocking force on this side and we'd sweep back, trying to drive the enemy into the blocking force. Which was very successful, in some cases. And some cases we went into

choppers got shot down. But uh, it was uh, it was always a moving, hit and run type war. There wasn't no such thing as you getting in the hole and you just stay there. You were always moving. And uh, the uh, the jungle terrain was hard to put up with. It took it's toll on malaria cases and heat exhaustion cases and stuff like that.

MM: But how did you...I mean, wasn't that aggravating, knowing that the, you couldn't go any further, or you had to stop a certain point? I mean....

FK: Well, uh, there were no front. (**MM:** Oh...) I mean, there was no front. The enemy, like you say, the enemy, they all look alike, so you didn't really know the enemy was all around you. And uh,

The enemy was everywhere. You didn't know who the enemy was. You go into a village and uh, the people you talk to, they were VC sympathizers. They fed the VC and the VC came into the village at night and they would feed 'em and let 'em sleep there. We would move in the next day and they were friendly to us, you know, big smiles and everything like that. But as soon as we left, the VC would come back in. So it, it was, yeah, it..... It was uh pretty hard to take. But uh, there wasn't nothing we could do about it. That's just the way it was. But uh, there were no front lines. The VC was everywhere. The enemy was. And the enemy could very well be in the hole. An 80 year old

man, or a young, 8 or 10 year old kid. The kid could just come up and drop a grenade in your vehicle. If you're sitting along the road, and just keep on walking. You had to, you had to be, you had to be on the alert at all times. And it was difficult, very difficult.

MM: You were saying something about that 14 year old kid that was expert mine....how did he....

FK: Well, he told us through, we had our interpreters, and he said that he got paid, the VC paid him so much for every mine or booby trap that the Marines put off. So he would go out on a path that, or on a path that the Marines were likely to be patrolling, and he'd put in these little mines or booby traps, you know, and maybe blow the legs off a couple of Marines. Well, he got paid for that. But he was just a young kid. I think he was maybe 12 or 14. But that's how he made his living. So uh....it was a screwed up war.

MM: What was the uh, when you got home, what was it like coming back as a handling, I guess, readjusting to civilian life after your second tour? Or what, what did you do after you, you went back from the 2nd..... Where were you stationed?

FK: Well, like I say, I was a drill instructor at Paris Island, and I went to Vietnam in '66 and '67 and back for the drill field and pulled three more years up on the drill field, and went back to Vietnam in '70 and '71. Came back from Vietnam in '71 uh...my duty station was Cherry Point, North Carolina. I was warden in the jail house down there until I retired in '75.

MM: What was your reaction when they started pulling them out in '75 without....did you think they should have let 'em stay, or did you think they should have pulled them out?

FK: Well uh...like I said, you know, they uh, the decisions made by our president or you know, I have no control over that. So uh, whether or not I agree or disagreed wouldn't have, wouldn't amount to a hill of beans. But the point I'd like to make is, the young kids in this country, to realize that right or wrong, it is their country. And they should be willing to sacrifice for it.

MM: You think that the perception about the people over in Iraq today, or the situation in the Persian Gulf, do you think that....the outlook is better toward supporting what we're doing over there now?

FK: Well, I think we, I think we already have a lot of people trying to uh, trying to disagree with our reasons for being in the Persian Gulf area, Saudi Arabia. But uh, I think that, I think that we're worried about, too much about world opinion. I think that we're afraid to do anything. We should go in there, take the back. And if Saddam Hussein, if he wants to fight, give him a fight. We could clean his plow, I'd say, in, we'd lose men, we'd lose troops. But we can, we can bring him to his knees in short order. We got stuff to do with. But uh, then once again, it's the world opinion that everybody's worried about. All of our politicians, our president, on down. They're, they're worried about what other countries are going to say or do if we become the aggressor. So uh, but I definitely think we should go in there and..... If we don't do it now, we'll have to go in there and do it later. So I think we should, I think we should do it now and get it over with.

MM: What was your uh...reaction to, or how do you think Vietnam veterans after they got back, adjusting to I guess civilian life after they came back from however many tours they served over there....do you think it was....their problems increased...with finding jobs?

Because I've heard a lot of statistics said a lot of them couldn't find jobs, and a lot of them wouldn't be hired because the employer would think they would flip out on 'em or something like that. Do you think that was prevalent? I mean....

FK: Well they uh, a lot of them had psychological problems, I suppose. But you know, you hear a lot about it. But you don't hear about the thousands and thousands that never had any problems?

MM: So I was getting ready to say, do you think that was, that was expanded more by the media, too, than....?

FK: Well, I think it was just a small percentage that people that came back and flipped their cork, so to speak, or went on a shooting rampage and killed people and stuff like that. That's...I think the American solider is a pretty stable individual. And I, you know, we're just talking about a handful of people that couldn't cut it, and probably were nut cases before they even went to Vietnam. And Vietnam might have made it a little bit worse. But uh, uh, they uh, I don't know anything else to say about that.

MM: Well, give me some of your experiences about while you were there.... Like for instance, either with the press or your second time around...I don't know exactly what, but just some of your tales....or whatever....[chuckling]

FK: Well [pausing for thought]....one incident I had while escorting a t.v. crew, camera crew...

MM: You had, not, they weren't just newspapers, they were, ABC, like live t.v.

FK: Live t.v. And I was escorting ABC camera crew, and uh, we went to that I mentioned before. And while the choppers were coming in...

MM: What is exactly

FK: That's where you're receiving

And so, we went into the hot

And we'd been shot at. Got out of the choppers, and come to find out we'd landed right on top of the enemy, instead of behind them, like we were supposed to have. But uh, we were uh, in rice paddies. I was down behind a rice paddy dike, trying to keep from getting shot. And the person that I was escorting, should I mention his name? Well, Roger Peterson with ABC. He's a big man. He stands about 6'4", huge man. And I told him, I said, "You're gonna get shot." And he said, "Well, I've got to direct my camera crew." I said, "Ain't gonna do you no good. You're gonna be dead." And so, he finally did sort of hunker down beside of me. And at that time, he got shot. So uh, it was pretty, pretty hairy situation. There was a young Marine shot about the same time. He was oh, maybe, ten feet away. And he died calling for his momma. But it was a bad situation. But I got Roger Peterson on a Medivac Helicopter and they threw him out in the Gulf to the uh, hospital ship. And he, he done all right.

MM: How did the, did they have trouble with

I don't know if you were, if you

received any I guess maybe you did before you got there, before you landed, about what the environment was like or how to cope? Did they, the press seem to have any trouble? Or did they seem to be able to adapt to the environment and the situation where they was at?

FK: The press, all of them were good troopers. I mean, most of them were real good people. And uh, as an escort for the press, it was my job to take care of them. And so, I would help carry their equipment, I'd help carry water for 'em. You know, if they had any uh, if they would become ill with the heat, then I could always get a chopper to get 'em out. So you know, it was my job to take care of 'em and I took pretty good care of them. I never uh...I

had a few that uh, that might be on the verge of being overcome by heat. But I was always would either get 'em out of the area, get 'em on a supply helicopter or something and get 'em back to the press center.

MM: But they usually adapted well to the....?

FK: Very well. And all of them were really good people.

MM: Mmmm. What about the, Bob told me something about you giving John Wayne pointers to, one of his movies or something?

FK: No. I don't know what Bob told you. That's not true. John Wayne, I just happened to be in the...we had a little bar in the press center. And I was in the bar one night and he came in. And he drank Scotch. And quite a bit of it. So I had my picture taken with him and talked to him, but that was it. I didn't give him no pointers. [laughing]

MM: Well, let's see what I was going to ask you. Okay, you were showing me pictures with Vietnamese children, you said the hardest, you thought it took more of a toll on them than it did any of the Marines.....

FK: Well, like I say, the Vietnamese people basically are good people. I mean, they are good people. But it's the, their leadership that keeps them in war all the time. And kids were just like kids the world over, you know. They would come to the Marines, the Marines would give them money, candy bars or food, and teach 'em how to speak English. And the kids were great. But you never turned your back on 'em, because like I said, they could be lethal, too.

MM: Mmmh. Okay. I guess that's about all. When did you come back to West Virginia?

After you retired?

FK: After I retired in '75. We came back home in February, I think it was, of '75. Went to work in the coal mines, been working in the coal mines 15 years and uh, and that's about it.

END OF SIDE 1

MM: ...What did....so you didn't....if you were here in '75, you, there wasn't, you didn't see that much of a hostility or anything from West Virginia?

FK: No, definitely not. West Virginia, I think, is the greatest state in the union, and a bunch of good patriotic people in West Virginia.

MM: Well, I guess that's all. You don't have any more things to add?

FK: I think there's many, many things I could, I could maybe tell you, if I had time to think about it and maybe take notes and write down some interesting stories maybe. But uh, in a two-year period of time, a lot of things happen. A lot of things, interesting things. But that was 25 years ago. And uh, my memory's not too long.

MM: But you think basically that the, even though that this war was I guess you could say it wasn't, should have been I guess, projected as it wasn't as bad, I know it's bad. But as wars go, all wars are bad, it wasn't, there's more I guess, anti-war movement and all this stuff than the people [inaudible].... little bit out of touch with what was actually reality?

FK: Well, I'd just like to say that if we ever go to war again, which we will, that we fight to win. Vietnam, it was a politician's war. And our hands were tied, the troops, their hands were tied. And we weren't permitted to win the war. Although, we won every battle. So it was pretty hard to take. And I hope that the next one, that the night fight that we get into, I hope we fight to win.

MM: Why do you think they wouldn't let you win...I mean, why do you think they wouldn't let

you go ahead and take charge?

FK: I don't know. Like I say, to win that war....

MM: DO you think they were embarrassed, they were embarrassed after they, the government was, after since maybe they didn't think.... Everybody kept saying you were there just to help train the South Vietnamese to be able to fight for themselves. But uh...I...?

FK: In order to win that war, the Vietnam war, we would have had to cross the DMZ and move into North Vietnam. We didn't do that. Why, I don't know. It may have been because we were afraid of bringing China into it. I don't know.

MM: What do you think would have happened if China would have been brought in?

FK: Well, China as you know, a billion people. And that's a lot of people. And if they were, I mean, I don't think it, it would have been like Korea. China moved into Korea. And we fought, instead of North Korean troops, we fought Chinese troops. By the thousands they come in. And if they'd have done the same thing, well, as a matter of fact, China had Chinese advisors with the North Vietnamese army. I've seen 'em. (MM: OH really) But they weren't North Vietnamese troops, they were Chinese troops. And uh, so they had their advisors there. But if they had moved their troops in, China moved more troops in, then, I don't know, we might have got serious about, a little bit more serious about moving into North Vietnam. You know, it's hard to say. But uh, maybe we just didn't want to tangle with China. I don't know. But we got this situation coming up in Saudi Arabia, and uh, hopefully, if they start shooting, that they'll fight to win. I hope.

MM: Okay. Well, thanks so much.

END OF INTERVIEW