

THE SUICIDE OF AN ELITE

American Internationalists and Vietnam

PATRICK LLOYD HATCHER

STANFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 1990

Contents

Introduction: The Design of the War 3

PART I: MILITARY CONSTRAINTS

- 1 *The Limits of Collective Combat* 35
2 *Collective Security: One for All and All for One* 52
3 *The Southeast Asian War* 71

PART II: POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS

- 4 *Vietnam and the Failure to Govern* 113
5 *The Fall of the House of Ngo* 136
6 *The Politics Behind Saigonese Coups* 169

PART III: ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS

- 7 *Vietnam—An Economic Design* 193
8 *The Good Earth: The Wealth of This Nation* 225
9 *The Great River: Developing Vietnam's Economy* 263

Conclusion: The Design of Defeat 285

Notes, 321 Bibliography, 397 Index, 411