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Historic Turning Points in Johnson Administration

## INDONESIA

On the night of September 30, 1965, the Indonesian Communist Party, supported by elements of the Army and Air Force, killed six of Indonesia's top generals and attempted to take over control of the country. Loyal military units rallied under General Suharto and crushed the coup attempt in 48 hours. In the 18 months following this watershed event, the Indonesian Communist Party was destroyed, Sukarno was removed from power, and Indonesia's foreign and domestic policies were reversed to produce one of the most dramatic changes for the better in recent Asian history.

The United States made no direct contribution to this chain of events, and current Indonesian leadership resents any suggestion that they should share the credit for what took place. It can be argued, however, that the United States' stand in Viet-Nam and British support of Malaysia created a situation which led the Communist Party to feel it had to risk a coup, and also reinforced the determination of Indonesia's new leaders to break Indonesia's close ties with Communist China, restore good relations with the West, and repudiate Sukarno's leadership.

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