Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
PART I: Framework of the Inquiry	
CHAPTER ONE Analyzing Presidential Decision Making	2
PART II: Failure to Intervene in 1954	
CHAPTER TWO The Question of Unilateral Intervention: Narrative	28
CHAPTER THREE The Question of Unilateral Intervention: Analysis	53
CHAPTER FOUR The Card of Multilateral Intervention: Narrative	67
CHAPTER FIVE The Card of Multilateral Intervention: Analysis	98
PART III: Intervention in 1965	
CHAPTER SIX Crossing the Threshold: Narrative	118
CHAPTER SEVEN Crossing the Threshold: Analysis	134

vi HOW PRESIDENTS TEST REALITY

CHAPTER EIGHT Incremental Escalation: Narrative	150
CHAPTER NINE Incremental Escalation: Analysis	174
CHAPTER TEN Open-ended Commitment: Narrative	195
CHAPTER ELEVEN Open-ended Commitment: Analysis	231
PART IV: A Summing Up	
CHAPTER TWELVE Eisenhower and Johnson Decision Making Compared	256
CHAPTER THIRTEEN Notes on Presidential Reality Testing	274
Sources Consulted	301
Index	313