

Statement for United Press, 2/10/58

(75-15)

Lincoln's firm belief in an indissoluble Union made it necessary for him to lead a war against the States that believed they could legally withdraw from the Union.

That same firm belief, carried on into the post-war years, would have made it necessary for Lincoln, if he had lived, to have respected the sovereignty of the Southern States. There could have been no harsh military Reconstruction, because the State Governments -- which Lincoln believed indissoluble -- would have retained their legal authority.

The whole course of American History would have been changed -- and probably for the better.