



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
FORT BENJAMIN HARRISON, INDIANA 46216

ATZI-CG

7 May 1974

Dear Bob,

For several days now I have tried to get the time to write you a decent letter concerning your manuscript titled: "The Other Side of the War." It is of such importance to all of us that I did not want to give a hasty response. Therefore, I have not only reviewed the document myself, but I have asked others here at the ADMINCEN to do the same. I am regretful that our detailed analysis will not be as deep as I would have preferred, but this happens to be a fact of life.

All in all I found the document very well done and readily understandable for an individual who had some reasonable knowledge of what ~~past events~~ was all about. It would be difficult for an individual who is a total layman to link Vietnam with some future operations. However, I doubt such would occur under any circumstances.

I am giving to you the unedited comments of certain individuals who have reviewed the document. Their time of involvement varied considerably and due to the changing nature of the war there, their perceptions vary dramatically. I know that you are aware that many of the things we were doing in 70 and 71 had evolved from actions which commenced in 63-65. In between there were some very significant and evolutionary steps dictated by the nature of the enemy, the stresses of the government, and our public opinion at home. Thus, it may be necessary for you to focus on the time-frame of the various actions and how they evolved.

In your letter to me you noted your desire to have some sort of foreword. One suggestion which comes to my mind would be to take a copy of the speech which Ambassador Colby habitually used in discussing the war in Vietnam with newly arrived province and district ~~leaders~~, and using this as a "perspective piece" to let the reader know at the outset what the nature of the war was and how it was broken down by precise periods. Of course, these periods are a bit flexible in the minds of different people, but I never found anyone who would challenge Ambassador Colby's overall framework of what was taking place and when.

Also you would possibly like to have this reviewed by the Institute of Military Assistance or more especially someone like Colonel Wallace Veaudry who had a considerable impact on training at JFK Center.

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Two final thoughts on review are to ask General Julian Ewell, who is now retired and living in McLean and Charles Whitehouse (now Ambassador to Laos). These latter two were very instrumental in tying together our military and pacification efforts. Regrettably, two real experts ---- John Vann and Wilbur Wilson ---- are no longer alive and could not pass judgement.

I do not find real fault with much that you have written although you will find once it is published that there will be many who will challenge paragraphs, chapters, and pages. Don't be disturbed by this for it is very much like four people standing on a street corner at an intersection and seeing the same accident from different viewpoints. All see it differently!

Although I have no objection to anything I have said being used, I would really prefer to write a special letter if you want me to comment about anything in particular. All in all, I find the document very interesting reading and another very vital document in our history of ~~pacification~~ ^{pacification}.

Keep in touch and let me know what you decide. Incidentally, if you don't have a copy of Ambassador Colby's speech I may have one in my files, but have not yet had a chance to search it out. I know that Ambassador Colby has one even though he generally spoke only from notes. Also be sure that George Jacobson sees this.

Faithfully,



EUGENE P. FORRESTER
Major General, USA
Commanding

Incls
as

Colonel Robert I. Channon