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To: Dr. Douglas Pike
Indochina Studies Archive
University of California
6701 San Pablo Avenue
Berkeley, CA. 94720

From: Jane Hamilton-Merritt

1. Doug, I'm enclosing recent articles by **Philadelphia Inquirer** and **St. Paul Pioneer Press** on escalation of repatriation of Hmong political refugees and asylum seekers from Thailand to Laos and my recent op-ed on U.S. treatment of Hmong.

2. I thought that you might be interested in the responses from colleagues on this latest propaganda and disinformation campaign by Frank Proschan, et. al. I'm enclosing letters from Philip Smith of the Indigenous Peoples Project; Dr. William Leary, Chair of the History Department at U. of Georgia; Dr. Earl Tilford, Director of Research, Strategic Studies Institute at the U.S. Army War College; Dr. Joe Dunn, Dana Professor of History at Converse College; and comments by Arthur Dommen.

Doug, as I had mentioned to you earlier, in the fall of 1992, Frank Proschan hand-delivered a set of charges against **Tragic Mountains** to John Gallman, Director of Indiana University Press, in an attempt to derail the publication of this book. At that time, Proschan requested and received anonymity from Gallman.

In this latest Proschan harangue, entitled "Jane Hamilton-Merritt: An Evaluation of Her Scholarly Work," which is being distributed on Capitol Hill, there are really only two issues: did the LPDR abuse, persecute, and attempt to "wipe out" the Hmong who had allied themselves with the U.S. during the Vietnam War, and did the LPDR use chemical agents against its minorities and political adversaries or was it only bees defecating in flight as Meselson and his group promoted.

The answer to the first question is a definitive yes. Also, see attached comments by Arthur Dommen, whom you know is a world-class scholar on Laos, who concludes as I do that the record is quite clear that the Hmong who allied themselves with the U.S. were targeted by the LPDR.

On the question whether or not lethal agents were used in Laos, the answer is a definitive yes. Evidence of this is overwhelming and available from various credible scientific sources around the world. In fact, chemical attacks by the LPDR against freedom fighters have never ceased. In April and May 1994 fighting in Laos in which the LPDR used chemical agents was reported by a Thai National Security

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official in the Thai press with a warning to Thai citizens living near the Lao border to be careful.

3. I've recently spoken to Jim Reckner who is extremely excited and pleased that your papers are being donated to the Texas Tech Archive for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict. I'm delighted also that you have selected this archive for your papers. I think Texas Tech will do a fine job perserving materials and making them available to researchers.

With best wishes,