

RD

3 June 1986

Dear Mr. Phillips,

Having recently completed my dissertation on Hubert Humphrey, I have, for the first time in a long while, found some free time on my hands. I have been using that time to send out a number of chapters from the dissertation to people that I thought might be interested in them. The chapters I am sending to you--nos. 8 and 9--are the two on Vietnam. I am sending similar copies to Bert Fraleigh and General Lansdale. I am pleased that they gave me a chance to tell the Vietnam/Hubert Humphrey story from the perspective that you and Bert Fraleigh and General Lansdale provided. My committee, at least, is very excited about that "story," and I may already have a publisher who would like to put it into print. I am also working on an article or two, based on the Vietnam materials, which I will try to have published in a journal or magazine. Meanwhile, I more than welcome your own comments/criticisms on the materials as they are here presented.

Should you be willing, I would very much like to come to have another talk with you about Vietnam and the kind of counter-insurgency that all of you conducted there. I am still as deeply impressed by it as I was when I first heard of it, and would very much like to learn more. I continue to believe very strongly that it is a tale that ought to be told--both in terms of coming to grips with memory of Vietnam, but also in terms of facing more current situations--i.e. Latin America. Now that I have some time, I would like to pursue that goal as much as I can, and thus would look forward to another meeting with you, if it would be convenient.

Whatever the result of such an endeavor, I at least want to thank you for the time and the materials that you provided me in regards to the endeavor that I just completed. They played a key role in the development of my Vietnam argument vis a vis HHH, and I am truly grateful for them. Happily I can report that the day of my defense was one of the most satisfying that I have ever experienced, if only because my committee was so genuinely enthusiastic about the finished work. They showed that satisfaction by granting me "distinction"--a particularly pleasant ending to a particularly pleasant project. As long as it has taken, and as much work as it has represented, the truth is I am now kind of sad to say "goodbye" to Hubert. But it is time to move on, and so it is for that reason that am sincerely hoping that we can remain in touch....

In this I am

Very truly yours,



Chuck Garrettson