



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

15 July 1969

Mr. Gus E. Erwin  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Erwin:

It was most kind of you to acknowledge my 24 June letter to you. I am gratified that I have been able to answer some of your questions.

We in the military are very conscious of every American citizen's concern about and right to know the truth. This is certainly one of the basic tenets of our way of life.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard T. Knowles", is written over the typed name.

RICHARD T. KNOWLES  
Major General, GS  
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff  
for Military Operations

[REDACTED]  
July 1, 1969

Dear General Knowles:

Thank you so much for your detailed letter of explanation to the question I recently asked of our President, which was referred to you for answer.

I know you must get many questions such as I posed, and perhaps they are tedious to answer to un-informed people such as me. But, please don't ever quit answering them, sir. For your letter was most informative, and answered my question completely. I have taken my letter to the President and your answer in return—photo-statted them in the form of a brochure, and have mailed them to many of our friends who have wondered about the same question asked of Mr. Nixon, which was referred to you for answer.

Your answer, General, was most kind to my wife and I personally. It is comforting to know from you that our Country is prosecuting this offensive in the manner to win—but, bearing in mind all the while to protect as many American lives as possible. From your letter to me, this I believe.

General, I suppose I owe you and Mr. Nixon an apology for writing my original letter—and so I do. I shouldn't have taken his or your time to answer such a question. But, I was interested—and worried.

But I think you answered a hundred worried people in Dallas, (my friends, who have sons in the defense of Viet Nam) by your considerate letter of explanation to me on 24 June, 1969.

Sincerely,  
Gus E. Erwin  
Gus E. Erwin