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October 14, 1969

Brig. Gen. W. B. Bond  
Director of International and Civil Affairs  
Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Military  
Operations  
Department of the Army  
Washington, D.C. 20310

Library L. Thomas

Dear Bill:

Greetings from "Jeez, it's already chilly up here."

A little item in Army Times says you'll be moving soon to Vietnam, which, in turn, moves me to write a few lines.

I hope the October 15 reassurances to Hanoi do not turn out to be so massive as to prolong the war or intensify it until you get to it.

Your response of 31 July was much appreciated. I assumed from your letter that consideration would be given to any additional ideas we might come up with, and that I could put them into the system by addressing them to you. But now you are going off to the war again -- whom shall we address our ideas to? Dick Knowles? Your successor? Mr. Sobelman?

It's too bad Fulbright is engaged in his power struggle with the White House at this time; for we are moving into a period of foreign-policy decision-making whose form is highly uncertain. Fulbright doesn't seem to have any clearer insight into its nature than anyone else, yet he is surely obstructing the broad-front research needed to uncover and identify the most promising approaches. One thing seems likely -- if we are going to have to cope, as "adversaries," with a wide but shallowly educated citizenry which is deep in misinformation, we are going to have to find ways for the government to highlight realism, clarity, and unemotionalism. The momentum of unreason is becoming formidable; we are less able to cope with it successfully. We need to explore ways to cope with it more successfully, and soon.

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Meanwhile, we shall be in touch with Colonel Wilson at Bragg about study ideas related to his enterprise.

In any event, good wishes for a successful tour out there, Bill. And many happy returns to you, Dick, and Woody if you see them. May we meet again in happy circumstances.

Sincerely,

Anthony L. Wermuth

ALW/pm

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