

24 September, 1974

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

Thank you for your very thoughtful note regarding my selection. It has been a long (expletive deleted) year, and Mary and I are delighted to have it behind us, particularly in light of the favorable outcome.

I am unable to express our deep appreciation for your personal support and encouragement throughout this difficult time. Suffice it to say your faith and confidence made it possible for us to look ahead to the future during these past months with enthusiasm and optimism -- and that such good grace as we were able to bring to the situation stemmed largely from your own positive attitude. Thank you.

It is not surprising to hear that you are busier than ever. I don't believe that any one who knows you ever thought that you would quietly 'fade away'. Perhaps, if your schedule permits, you might be able to talk to our War College students -- I am involved with trying to sell the Presence Mission as second only to that of Strategic Deterrence (the September edition of the NWC Review carries my views, which drew Honorable Mention in the Colbert Memorial Prize Essay contest) but am having heavy going trying to find a persuasive speaker on the subject for 20 February to kick off the study in Presence. Of course, a formal invitation would have to come from Admiral LeBourgeois, but before bringing up the issue it would be helpful to know if you might be interested and available. I'm sure that you are the best man for the job, perhaps barring Admiral Gorshkov!

Warmest best wishes to you and Mouza from all of us. If I can be of any service to you now or in coming years, you have but to ask.

Sincerely,

J.F. McNulty

E.R. Zumwalt, Jr.  
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

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