



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO

26 July 1974

Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret.)
c/o Naval Historical Center
Washington Navy Yard, Bldg. 210-4
Washington, D. C. 20374

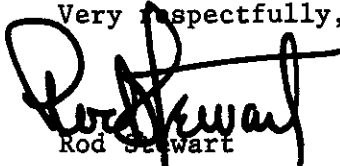
Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

Thank you for your letter of 23 July. While I am saddened personally by your understandable decision not to serve as President of the Helping Hand Foundation, I fully appreciate the constraints which forced you to this decision. I shall do all I can to continue my own efforts to revitalize the Foundation's leadership to support the Navy's peace-building programs which your vision and imagination have made possible.

I am deeply humbled by your kind words of praise and thank God for the privilege of having served under you and having had a small part in bringing to fruition your efforts to help people to help themselves. I hasten to add my pleasure in having worked with Mrs. Zumwalt and the Friends of Operation Helping Hand.

May God continue to bless with success and happiness your unselfish altruism. I wish you and Mouza all the very best as you begin your new life together.

Very respectfully,


Rod Stewart

*Boblin
now and*

STEWART, R.

23 July 1974

Dear Rod,

This letter is to convey my decision regarding the offer of the Presidency of the Helping Hand Foundation, a matter which I had felt it necessary to defer while I was on active duty.

I realize that the drift of events and the postponement of critical decisions have not aided the Foundation's cause over the past year. I wish that I might help to resolve the situation by accepting the office of President, but I feel constrained against such a move by the reality that my personal plans are so indefinite and may well call for me to move from this area. More importantly, I am reluctant to attempt as a civilian to revivify a project which I had founded and promoted while on active duty. I believe that by accepting I might do the Navy, the Foundation and its cause a disservice, a judgment which I deeply regret.

May I add a final word of thanks and praise for you, Rod, and your unstinted efforts for my countless projects, including Helping Hand. It is not easy to play the role of fireman under a chief who's a confirmed arsonist! I understand that you will soon leave OPNAV for the Foreign Service Institute. All my good wishes for health, success and happiness go with you. God bless you!

Warm regards,

B

E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.

Captain Rodney L. Stewart
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
OP-617
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Washington, D. C. 20350

STEWART, R. L.

Betty
Bentley
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