

SEP 30 1993

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28 September 1993

ADM E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret.)
1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

Three weeks ago I and my family returned from a fascinating (if occasionally emotional) trip to Vietnam. (Hopefully, you got our card). Enclosed is my MFR of the trip. I thought you might perhaps find something in it of interest.

I understand that you and your son are writing a book about Admiral Chon. You both -- and the admiral -- might be interested to know that "his name lives on in Vietnam": One of the U.S. Navy plaques he received is displayed in the Museum of the Revolution in Hanoi! (This is an often dreary, repetitious museum chronicling all the various Vietnamese revolts against the French, as well as the war we were in. It does have a French guillotine in it, however).

The plaque is in a display case on the success of the North Vietnamese (they say all Vietnamese) in that war, and is displayed next to the dedication plaque taken from the American Embassy in Saigon ("Ellsworth Bunker, 1967").

The plaque is from the shipyard at Pearl Harbor. The inscription on it says it was given to the admiral at Pearl Harbor in 1971 (Captain Wilson was the shipyard CO).

The Museum has labeled it simply as a plaque captured in the South, not discussing at all who Admiral Chon might have been or might be, or why this particular plaque rated being put in a museum.

It was a surprising thing to come across, in that venue. Things naval normally get pretty short shrift in Vietnamese museums.

Our regards to your family.

Sincerely and very respectfully,



Peter M. Swartz
CAPT, USN (Ret)

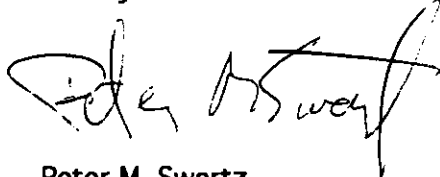
28 September 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJ: FAMILY VISIT TO VIETNAM & EAST ASIA (8 AUG - 7 SEPT 1993)

Some Bottom-Lines (Detailed Observations and Itinerary Follow)

- We experienced no hostility toward ourselves as Americans or Overseas Vietnamese ("Viet Kieu").
- Vietnam is neither an idyllic paradise waiting to be discovered nor an economic miracle waiting to happen nor a resentful Communist totalitarian backwater. Rather, it is a small but populous third-world agricultural country with lots of beautiful and interesting places and very proud, provincial people, just emerging from war, repression, and poverty and just starting to improve things for itself.
- Americans who follow Vietnamese affairs professionally have a good handle on things. The Vietnamese-American "Viet Kieu" community doesn't.
- Besides omnipresent reminders of the wars, there is really not much left of French, American, or Russian influence. Vietnam is now very Vietnamese.
- Police and especially the military are not particularly visible.
- Crime exists, but it's not aimed particularly at foreigners.
- The country is slowly de-bureaucratizing.
- When the harvest is good, things are good. When we were there, the weather had been good, and the harvests of various kinds had been good. So things were good.
- Most indigenously produced goods and services are very, very cheap, but the double-standard in pricing is pervasive.
- Shops of all sizes and types are everywhere. Private retailing is booming.
- The vehicle stock in the country is now mostly bicycles. Driving is bizarre.
- Lift the Embargo. It does us no good and does them some harm, chiefly by preventing their population from joining the world mainstream – economically, culturally, and socially. The wars are over. Let them be over.



Peter M. Swartz
Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Detailed Observations

Overview

These are my impressions based on a few weeks in Vietnam in August 1993. I do not pretend that they are any more than impressions. I and my family went essentially as tourists, and had no special objectives other than to tour the country and revisit places my wife or I had lived. The conclusions I draw should be evaluated in that context.

Background:

- I spent three weeks in Vietnam with my wife Thuy, our 18-year-old daughter Diana and our 14-year-old son Daniel (preceded by five days in Japan and followed by four days in Hong Kong, Macau, and the Chinese border city of Zhu Hai). In Vietnam, we spent a couple of days in Ho Chi Minh City, two weeks on the road all over the country, and four days in Hanoi (a detailed itinerary is attached). We traveled with my wife's sister, her son and his friend, and a driver in a rented 1992 Toyota van. We covered about 2000 miles on the road, all told. (Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi is about 1000 miles).

- I had served with the Vietnamese Navy in South Vietnam in 1969-1971, first in the western delta and then in Saigon. My wife, whom I met in Saigon, had been born in North Vietnam and had come South on a U.S. Navy ship in 1955. She had not been back to the North since then, and neither of us had been back to the South since 1971. Our children were born in England and Virginia and had never been to Vietnam before.

- Prior to leaving for Vietnam and at my own request, I had been given unclassified briefings -- in person or on the phone -- on what I might expect by four experts: an OSD/ISA official (Dr. Lewis Stern), a DIA analyst (Gil Kelbaugh), a journalist and author (Joe Galloway), and a Seattle businessman (Fred Rohrbach). I also heard a lot about the country from friends and relatives in the Vietnamese-American community.

General Observations:

- My briefings from all the experts were mostly consistent with each other and with what I saw in-country. Americans here who follow Vietnamese affairs professionally seem to have a very good handle on the country and what's happening there. (Also, the travel book Vietnam, Laos, & Cambodia: A Travel Survival Guide, from Lonely Planet Publishing, was excellent -- head and shoulders above any other guidebook).

- By contrast, the members of the Vietnamese-American community whom I talked to differed greatly with each other and often with what I found in-country. Rumors and out-dated information were rife.

- I experienced no hostility or obstruction in my dealings and travels in Vietnam, and often experienced some warmth -- even at My Lai -- and even after telling people I had been to Vietnam during the war as an American naval officer. If I flashed a grin, it was normally returned, sometimes with a wave. The kids would often yell "hello" -- the limit of their English, usually. I think that, in the minds of the Vietnamese, the wars of the 1940s, '50s, '60s and '70s are over (they having won), and ill will toward the

Americans -- and French -- of the 1990s is non-existent. I heard some concern, however, about the Chinese, and mixed views on the Russians (gratitude for their help, but contempt for their occasional boorishness).

- Nobody ever came up to me to try to sell me information or bones or anything regarding American POW/MIAs. At the levels I was living at in Vietnam, it's not an issue. And only one guy came up to me to try to get my help to go to America. But, of course, lots of people came up to me every day begging for money.

- There was no resentment shown toward my wife and her sister for having left their homeland (twice). They had no problems anywhere in the country. We were all welcomed back to Bich Tri (my wife's home town a couple of hours south of Hanoi, near Phu Ly) and it was even suggested that we buy back the old house and settle there.

- The young adult male population outside of central Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, on the other hand, had a lot of trouble dealing with being in the presence of our daughter, an attractive, 18-year old Stanford student. Lots of staring, some crude remarks, occasional jostling, and even a couple of minor physical incidents occurred. (By contrast, nothing of the sort occurred in Japan, Hong Kong or Macau, while Zhu Hai (China) fell more into the Vietnamese mode). Super-modest dress was tried but it was little help. I surmised that the combination of a macho culture, stereotypes about Eurasian children and/or western women, isolation from the mainstream of world culture for twenty years, and high unemployment and underemployment were the culprits here.

- Vietnam is neither an idyllic paradise waiting to be discovered nor an economic miracle waiting to happen nor a resentful Communist totalitarian backwater. Rather, it is a small but populous third-world country with lots of beautiful and interesting places and lots of proud people that has just emerged from decades of war, repression, and poverty and is starting to improve things for itself.

- Traditional Vietnamese racial, ethnic, regional and cultural views are quite evident. Northerners still look down at Southerners (e.g.: Vietnamese with Southern accents leaning out of van windows in Hanoi to ask directions are given short shrift). Southerners still resent Northerners. Nobody likes -- or often can even understand -- Vietnamese from the Center, especially the poor former North Vietnamese "panhandle" part of the Center (and these feelings are obviously reciprocated). Montagnards are still looked down at. Non-communist Vietnamese entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs still depise Communist ideologues and bureaucrats, as much for their stupidity as for their power. And the Communists are still enormously proud of their achievements of having thrown out the French and Americans, squashed the "puppets", and held the Chinese at bay. There are some differences in dress: more ao-dais in the South, brighter colors in the South, olive drab pith helmets on the men in the North, Western-style straw hats with brightly patterned ribbons on the women in the North.

- Police in uniform were only in evidence in large numbers in Da Nang and Hanoi. There seemed to be less in Ho Chi Minh City and elsewhere. On the other hand, the only place in the entire country where any kind of traffic discipline is exercised at all is downtown Hanoi, and the discipline is directly related to the large number of traffic police. Plain-clothes police were evident in all the lobbies and driveway gates of the hotels we stayed at in Central and North Vietnam. They were especially noticeable in Da Nang.

- Crime exists, but it's not at unusually high levels nor aimed particularly at foreigners. We had a locked suitcase opened and some cigarettes stolen from it at Tan Son Nhut Airport, coming in to Ho Chi Minh City, but that was our only loss. (On the other hand, we tried to be very careful, and weren't carrying much of value anyway). We heard a few credible accounts of Vietnamese robbing other Vietnamese.

- The country does not appear at all militarized. There was less visible military presence than in the countries of the Mediterranean, or – for that matter – the United States. The military was hard to spot. Every town and neighborhood had Party and Government headquarters, of course, with lots of yellow and red signs and banners, but without any guns around. We saw occasional small army camps: very scruffy, not spiffy, no sharp guards at the gates, lots of soldiers playing volleyball in shorts, etc. We did see one uniformed army squad running one evening in downtown Ho Chi Minh City, of all places (from behind the Opera House across and up the street), with their small arms at the ready. And we saw some anti aircraft batteries at Noi Bai airport outside Hanoi, some small warships at Vung Tau and Haiphong, and an occasional jeep-like vehicle or military ambulance on the road. That was it, in 2000 miles of driving. No convoys, no roadblocks, few soldiers or sailors walking around in uniform, few veterans or poor people wearing cast-off old uniforms, no fly-overs. The books all say the Army is enormous, but it stays pretty much out of sight.

- The country is over-bureaucratized, but is de-bureaucratizing, to some extent. You still need a visa to get in (ours came from Mexico City). All the info about us was entered (slowly) into a computer when we came in through Immigration at Tan Son Nhut. In-processing through Tan Son Nhut was painfully slow, with lots of customs forms to fill out. (By contrast, leaving the country through customs at Hanoi's Noi Bai Airport was a breeze, except for the steep overweight luggage fee, which we bargained down some). Throughout the trip we still needed to check our passports and visas with the police at every hotel. But we didn't need to ask permission to travel anywhere we went, and we encountered no unusual roadblocks or document checks.

- Communist political exhortation seems to be fading -- literally. Most of the propaganda billboards extolling labor or the party seemed very old. The new ones were much smaller and were mostly about two topics -- combating AIDS ("SIDA" in Vietnamese, from French) and limiting families to only two children. (But the cemeteries with their yellow stars and the statues of Ho are everywhere. And in a little village in the Red River Delta we visited a family of farmers and silkworm raisers whose thatched hut was decorated by only two things -- a faded picture of Lenin and a torn picture of Ho Chi Minh).

- Reminders of the wars are everywhere. It is difficult to go a few kilometers anywhere in the country -- north, center or south -- without running into either a run-down but indestructible French concrete blockhouse, a freshly-painted, well-maintained post-1975 memorial obelisk and cemetery dedicated to the Communist war dead, or both. Blockhouses seemed especially thick in the North; cemeteries in what used to be I Corps.

- The wars have left as their legacy some strange contributions to Vietnamese architecture. Barbed wire is still everywhere in the South and Center. Even new buildings are "decorated" by barbed wire fences woven into various geometric patterns, even if they are obviously not there for security (gaps for entrances, etc.). Iron grenade screens are everywhere too, even on new buildings. Topping masonry walls with broken glass is also still seen in some compounds, old and new.

In Ho Chi Minh City, the old Vietnamese Navy Headquarters down on the riverfront still looks about the same, although the sailors guarding the front gate now wear Russian-style uniforms. The Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, Headquarters building looks like it has been torn down or totally rebuilt, however, and is now the Emperor (I think) Hotel. The little out-buildings out back, including the one I used to work in, are still more or less intact, however. The Naval Support Activity, Saigon building across from the old headquarters looks like some kind of mixed-use apartment building now.

- There are lots of tourist attractions relating to the Wars — Dien Bien Phu (we didn't go: a four-day trip from Hanoi, at least), the tunnels of Cu Chi, Song My (My Lai), big military museums in all the main cities, a monument to the downing of an American pilot in Hanoi, museums of the liberation of Ho Chi Minh or whatever all over Hanoi (which focus on the War). The Americans are portrayed always as Aggressors who came in to seize Vietnam and set up "puppets" (the Americans were the main event, never the "puppets"). Americans are also depicted as people who had an enormous, sometimes cruel, very competent Army that was nevertheless beaten by the more competent Communist Vietnamese forces and by world and American public opinion. The 25th Division is painted as ten feet tall by the Vietnamese at Cu Chi, all the more to dramatize their own cleverness and resourcefulness. (It's sort of like listening to Brits talking about the North Africa campaign against Rommel; it's nothing like the American mythology of how the clever Americans who hid behind trees beat the stupid Brits who marched in rows). (NB: The Vietnamese guides at Cu Chi never mention that the reason the tunnels were at Cu Chi is that Cu Chi is near Cambodia, the main Communist sanctuary).

- The Cult of the Personality, as regards Ho Chi Minh, is everywhere. His birthplace is one of the few very-well kept national shrines. The museum to his life in Hanoi is the newest, most modern big non-hotel building (even air-conditioned) in the country. His statues are everywhere. Folks — like us — line up dutifully in Hanoi to walk past his embalmed body and also visit his very austere house — on the grounds of the Governor-General's/Presidential Palace in Hanoi. Maps of the world sold in Vietnam all have Uncle Ho's various travels superimposed on them. We even watched his effigy being venerated as if he were the Buddha — with joss sticks, bowls of fruit, incense, etc. — at his birthplace.

- If you believe you can learn a lot about a country from the T-shirts it sells to tourists, then what you learn in Vietnam derives from T-shirts that depict (a nonexistent) "Hard Rock Cafe, Ho Chi Minh City", "Tin Tin in Vietnam", and crossed Vietnamese and American (or French or British) flags.

Observations regarding Tourism

- I saw not very many whites in-country, and only one or two blacks. Most of the whites were French tourists. I saw a few Russians — they are hard to miss — and only a couple of white Americans. Also, a smattering of other European tourists — Swiss, German, etc. They were mostly young and strong — few had children with them — and the French in particular had no interest in talking to me — or to the Vietnamese or anyone else, as near as I could tell.

- There is a lot of talk about expanding tourism and there are dozens of magazines around, in Vietnamese and almost-good English, extolling the scenic and historic virtues of the country. The potential is clearly there: spectacular beaches — especially Nha

Trang and Da Nang; natural wonders -- like the Hai Van Pass north of Da Nang and most especially Ha Long Bay in the North; extraordinary religious edifices -- like the Cao Dai Cathedral in Tay Ninh and some of the Buddhist pagodas; and leftovers from the wars -- like the Cu Chi Tunnels and the Son My (My Lai) Massacre sites.

- But they've got a very long way to go: There are really only a few comfortable hotels in the entire country; the attempts at imitating Western cooking are often laughable and sometimes inedible (most of those little French and quasi-French bistros I remember have long disappeared); and to get anywhere from anywhere else is a real adventure: the roads are absolutely awful; the bridges are worse; and the ferries are worse still (and you can't get from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay -- the number one natural wonder in the country -- without taking two execrable ferries).

- Also, the Vietnamese -- not being very used to foreigners and not being real enthusiastic about them either-- don't really know how to present themselves well to foreign tourists. The only people who are obviously trying to impress you with their grace, knowledge, sincerity, and interest -- and who obviously succeed -- are the guides at Ho Chi Minh's birthplace near Vinh (who speak no English), and the guides at the Cao Dai cathedral in Tay Ninh (who speak a kind of English). (Of course, both places are unique: there is a kind of transcendent spiritual and missionary zeal that pervades them, and makes them different from your normal run-of-the mill tourist attraction).

- I had been advised that I would be disappointed in Nha Trang and Vung Tau. They had been, I had been told, overrun by massage parlors and worse. I didn't see it. Sure there were a few massage parlors evident there -- and at Ha Long Bay too, and a few "working girls" in some of the hotels, but nothing like I remember in the Ho Chi Minh City or Vung Tau or Can Tho of yore. The Vietnam I saw is no obvious fleshpot.

- What was sad was the horrible deterioration of some of the most beautiful things in South Vietnam -- the villas and corniches of Vung Tau and the villas of Da Lat. Both towns used to be quite picturesque; they are both now simply crummy. They both attract a lot of domestic tourists, especially Da Lat, but the charm that would bring in anybody else is almost all gone. The roads in Vung Tau are "under construction" -- it looks like in perpetuity. In and around Da Lat, the "French Alps" architecture has been covered up or allowed to fall down, the forests have been denuded, and whole new populations from the outside have been brought in.

- Most human activities are done differently in different cultures, and tourism is no exception. Some of the differences in Vietnam will grate on some western tourists: For example, at Dalat, the Vietnamese domestic tourists like to have their pictures taken with large stuffed animals, and these are ubiquitous: deer, tigers, etc. But they are also, to some western tastes, probably tacky, moth-eaten, and detractors from the natural beauty of the waterfalls and gardens where they can be found. Likewise, snake and bear gall bladders and snakes in liquor abound for sale in tourist shops around the country; your average American tree-hugger or German Green would have some problems with these. Also, when visiting palaces and historic villas, Vietnamese tourists like to pay for extra tickets that allow them to sit (and get their pictures taken) on Bao Dai's bed or President Thieu's couch, a practice which is wearing these already somewhat shabby objects out.

Observations on Foreign Influence.

- U.S. war leftovers: The huge logistics bases at Da Nang are still there, but awfully run down. Likewise the revetments at Tan Son Nhut. Many of the bridges in the south are U.S. Army Bailey bridges. I saw lots of American cartridge cases for sale in some of the markets. And there are still a lot of woven plastic American foreign aid fertilizer sacks around, full of other things. And a few Army water "buffaloes". Also, some American Army weapon oil for sale in the State Department Store in Hanoi!

- But besides them and the antique American trucks -- and they too shall soon pass -- there really isn't much to remind you that the Americans were in Vietnam. And because of Vietnamese xenophobia and the American embargo, there's not an awful lot of contemporary American culture around either. Coke and 7-Up and Sprite and Wrigley's gum come in from Singapore and Hong Kong and are everywhere, but that's about it. I didn't hear much Western music, or see advertisements for Western movies. No Madonna. Not much (even broken) English is spoken, outside of a few hotels. Vietnam has become a unique country indeed. (Exception: Many Vietnamese men wear lightweight, apparently locally-made copies of the thick academy-style rings that American servicemen wear, inscribed "US Army Air Force". They were for sale everywhere, and I saw several guys wearing them). (A curiosity: many toilets and sinks, including very non-American footprints-and-hole-variety toilets, sport the logo "American Briggs").

- Not much French culture is still evident -- some of the vocabulary words, the pith helmets in the North, the French bread (baguettes) in the morning, some crumbling buildings all over. But nothing contemporary seemed French. Few people seemed to know any French language (not very many seemed to know English either).

- Not really lots of visible Russian influence. Some vehicles. An occasional Army water "buffalo" beside the road. Russians and Russian oil companies in Vung Tau. Some Russians in the cities and on the beaches. But tourist menus don't seem to have pages in Cyrillic, outside of Vung Tau. And tourist attractions only sometimes have handouts in Russian, but usually have them in French, and English.

- The conflicts with the Chinese (and others) were only visible to me in the maps of Vietnam and the world that were on sale everywhere: Both the Spratleys and the Paracels are depicted very prominently, and just as prominently are labeled as Vietnamese territory. This is very different from what I remember, i.e.: that nobody back then had ever heard of them, except the special operations people.

- There seemed to be very little foreign fare on Vietnamese TV. All I saw was a Mexican soap opera (which the audience -- a couple of Vietnamese cops -- obviously was enjoying).

- Vietnam has become very . . . Vietnamese.

Observations on The Economy and the Embargo

- The country is dirt-poor, despite its obvious agricultural, marine, and oil wealth. The South is visibly poorer than it was during the war. The deterioration of roads, bridges, sidewalks, and buildings was everywhere. Especially roads and bridges. Very little in the way of construction had gone on in the first postwar decade and a half. On the other hand, a corner has clearly been turned in the last year or so. Small-scale construction was evident in all cities, especially of new homes, some of them quite fancy. The streets of Ho Chi Minh City are a lot cleaner than I remember them.
- Lots of unemployment and under-employment. Lots of guys with lots of time on their hands: sitting around snacking, talking, playing pool (every village has a billiard hall) or doing not much of anything, all over the country (the contrast with Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Macao -- but not China -- was striking).
- When the harvest is good, things are good. When we were there, the weather had been good, and the harvests of various kinds had been good. The markets were overflowing and food was plentiful. The rice was very green in the North and the jackfruit and some other kinds of tropical fruit were being picked everywhere. Even the poor region around Vinh was looking agriculturally prosperous. (I was told the Vietnamese were sending food aid to Russia!)
- Most indigenous things are very, very cheap, but the double-standard in pricing is pervasive at all tourist-oriented activities. Ticket prices for foreigners (including Viet Kieu) to tourist attractions are 10 times the rate for domestic Vietnamese. And these distinctions are clearly posted. Hotel rates for foreigners are about four times those for Vietnamese, and often unreasonable, given the crummy nature of so many of the hotels. Meals, clothing, and souvenir items are very cheap almost everywhere except in the two first-class hotels -- the Sofitel (restored Metropole) in Hanoi and the Floating Hotel (towed up from Australia) in Ho Chi Minh City.
- But electric power lines are up all over the country. You notice the towers, because in the old days, of course, you couldn't have such things -- they all would have been blown up by sappers. On the other hand, electricity isn't always there when you need it in Viet Nam. In Hue, for example, there's a "brownout" every evening, which means no air conditioning in the hotels then.
- We saw some industry, especially in the North and especially in Haiphong -- e.g.: coal, oil, steel, cement, the railroad. The soap in the hotels is Vietnamese, and there are a lot of processed, packaged, and labeled Vietnamese foods for sale -- far more than I remember. Cigarettes and beer and some soda is Vietnamese too.
- We saw a lot of harvesting of primary and cash crops, everywhere: rice, fruits, vegetables, pepper, all kinds of fish and seafood, tea, coffee, rubber, logging, salt.
- Shops of all sizes and types are everywhere. Private retailing is booming. The government stifling of domestic trade has clearly ended. Signs are flashier and more eye-appealing in the South and Center than in the North. It seems like every building in every city has a shop on its ground floor, and that every house outside the cities has a little stand selling soup or cigarettes or soda in front of it.

- The vehicle stock in the country is now mostly bicycles, with some mopeds, motorcycles, and motor bikes. Very different from the South Vietnam I remember. Lots more pedicabs ("cyclo daps"); lots less motorized "cyclo mays" than I remember. Not very many cars, although there is a rash of new Toyota vans, so things are clearly changing. The old blue and yellow Renault taxis in Ho Chi Minh City are gone. The new taxis seem all air-conditioned, and not very expensive to hire. The trucks and buses are usually U.S. and Russian antiques -- I saw about one or two old functioning but hoodless US Army deuce-and-a-halves and three-quarter-tons every day, although most of them had been re-engined (for the worse), their sides often built up with old U.S. Army PSP steel. Gas stations seem plentiful, however. We never had much trouble finding gas.

- Driving is bizarre. In most of the country, you drive "right up the middle". Small still (usually) yields to big, lane markings are non-existent or totally ignored, and speeds are kept down by the constant need to dodge, weave, and stop. The farmers still dry their rice on the highway, especially in the Center, further constricting traffic, even if the road is good, which is usually not the case. When a vehicle like a bus breaks down, it just stops to get fixed -- on the road, not off the road. People -- especially in the Center and North -- just saunter across the road and expect you'll avoid them. The horn is used as much as the brakes and the pedal. Accidents didn't look very plentiful, however -- the people know the unwritten rules and traffic can't travel very fast in most places anyway. (In 2000 miles, we were in no accidents, not even a scrape). Large earthmoving equipment -- like road graders and rollers -- occasionally passes you slowly on the main streets of Ho Chi Minh City and elsewhere in the country.

- The single-track railroad line from Hanoi to Saigon is functioning well, with several passenger and freight trains of various types visible every day. The first class sleeper has a good reputation.

- There did not appear to be much of a black market. The exchange rate was a little over 10,000 dong to the U.S. dollar, and U.S. dollars are used as legal tender for all large transactions and many smaller ones. Because of the previous rampant inflation and the ubiquity of small-denomination banknotes (there are no coins), paying for things in dong involves lugging around big wads of money, in shopping bags.

- Vietnam is still a very food-oriented society. Every menu is lengthy. The variety of things to eat can be bewildering to a Westerner. Rice, noodles, vegetables, fruits, seafood, pork, beef, chicken, duck -- even game -- all appeared plentiful. Food cooked every way imaginable -- steamed, fried, boiled, broiled, poached, etc. Soda and beer -- every city appeared to have its own brands of beer -- are plentiful. Restaurants and food stalls -- big and small -- are everywhere. Food markets are full and bustling. Dinners at people's homes still take a long time to shop for, prepare, serve, and clean up after.

- Given the lack of both wars and tractors, the water buffalo and ox populations of the country have skyrocketed since I was last there. Water buffalo, cared for by kids, are now everywhere outside the cities, as are ox-carts (which are on all the roads).

- Beggars, old and young -- including some sadly deformed ones -- are everywhere in the cities in the South and Center, and anywhere on the highway a car might have to stop, and will make a bee-line for whites. There are less of them in the North, but they do frequent the tourist areas in Hanoi.

North vs South/ Hanoi vs Ho Chi Minh City: Hanoi is sort of like Washington or San Francisco; Ho Chi Minh City is kind of like New York or LA. Hanoi is about government and politics and ideas; Ho Chi Minh City is about money and business and getting on with life. Hanoi is prettier, more charming, poorer; Ho Chi Minh City is flashier, gaudier, more bustling, more dynamic, richer. Hanoi has more police, more rules, more self-centeredness; Ho Chi Minh City has a more wide-open, anything goes ambiance. In Hanoi, the Filipino band at the Saigon Floating Restaurant would look -- and sound -- ridiculous; In Ho Chi Minh City, the self-important Hanoi traffic police would look absurd. A businessman would like Ho Chi Minh City. I liked Hanoi.

- The rest of the country is not in the same league. Way back there.

- There is clear economic opportunity in Vietnam, but it should not be overstated. The Vietnamese have lots of excess labor, you don't have to pay them much, they are obviously capable of disciplined and complicated work (the traditional national skills are warfare and gourmet cooking), and their literacy rate is high. It didn't appear to me that they have much brand loyalty to the brands they're buying now (except maybe for Coke and other U.S.-label soft drinks), they currently have no visible problems with foreigners in their midst, and they respect America. Vietnam is an East Asian country, and the whole East Asian region is economically on a roll, so there are lots of regional trade opportunities. Businesses that profit from coming in when things are at rock bottom will profit here. There is money to be made by U. S. companies, through both sales and investment.

- On the other hand, these are mostly poor, serious, unsophisticated, proud, provincial people who have a history of not liking to be told what to do by white people or other Orientals, and whose economic infrastructure is terrible. The country is rich agriculturally, but so are a lot of places, including the United States. Out of the 170 or so countries in the world, it isn't clear that Vietnam is necessarily some sort of unique investment or marketing miracle just waiting to take off.

- Lift the Embargo. It does us no good and does them some harm, chiefly by preventing their population from joining the world mainstream, economically, culturally, and socially. Allowing free trade and movement will help a few American businessmen, some Viet Kieu, and a lot of Vietnamese. Nothing can be done to bring the missing back or bring life to our dead compatriots from a war that ended for us two decades ago. We were not embargoing the Germans or the Japanese in 1965, nor will we be embargoing the Russians twenty years from now. It's all over. Let it be over. (Of course, lifting the embargo will yield none of the great benefits we reaped from befriending Germans and Japanese after World War II, and as long as the benefits to us remain so low -- and they will -- the embargo will be hard to get lifted).

ITINERARY

Swartz Family trip to Vietnam, Japan, and Hong Kong

7 August to 7 September 1993

8/7 - 8	Washington to Tokyo
8/9	Tokyo
8/10	Tokyo
8/11	Tokyo to Kamakura to Tokyo
8/12	Tokyo to Hakone to Tokyo
8/13	Tokyo to Hong Kong to Ho Chi Minh City
8/14	Ho Chi Minh City
9/15	Ho Chi Minh City
8/16	Ho Chi Minh City to Cu Chi to Tay Ninh to Ho Chi Minh City
8/17	Ho Chi Minh City to Dong Tam to My Tho to Ho Chi Minh City
8/18	Ho Chi Minh City to Xuyen Moc to Vung Tau
8/19	Vung Tau to Bao Loc to Da Lat
8/20	Da Lat
8/21	Da Lat to Thap Cham/ Phan Rang to Cam Ranh Bay to Nha Trang
8/22	Nha Trang to Qui Nhon to Son My (My Lai) to Da Nang
8/23	Da Nang to Hai Van Pass to Hue
8/24	Hue
8/25	Hue to DMZ to Vinh
8/26	Vinh to Sen to Vinh to Hanoi
8/27	Hanoi
8/28	Hanoi
8/29	Hanoi to Bich Tri to Dap Quan Trung to Hanoi
8/30	Hanoi to Haiphong to Bai Chay on Ha Long Bay
8/31	Bai Chay and Ha Long Bay to Haiphong to Hanoi
9/1	Hanoi
9/2	Hanoi to Hong Kong.
9/3	Hong Kong to Macau to Zhu Hai to Macau to Hong Kong
9/4	Hong Kong
9/5	Hong Kong
9/6	Hong Kong to Tokyo.
9/7	Tokyo to Washington

DETAILED ITINERARY

Swartz Family trip to Vietnam, Japan, and Hong Kong 7 August to 7 September 1993

8/7 Fly non-stop JAL 747, Washington (Dulles) to Tokyo (Narita)

8/8 Arrive in Tokyo (Narita). Airport Limousine Bus to ANA Hotel Tokyo. Taxi to Roppongi (Hardy Barracks) for lodging.

8/9 Tokyo: Roppongi: Stars and Stripes Building breakfast, Hardy Barracks Navy Exchange, New Sanno Hotel concessionaires, Hard Rock Cafe lunch (and buy T-shirt), window shopping for fancy fruit. Hibiya: Hibiya Park, Nijubashi Bridge, view Imperial Palace and grounds. Ginza: Sony Building showrooms (buy video camera light), Hankyu Department Store, Mikimoto Pearls store, Matsuzakaya Department Store (including Food Hall), Toshiba Ginza 7 showroom, Jena Bookstore, spaghetti dinner at Ginza Crossing (Siena Restaurant). Subway to Nogizaka and Hardy Barracks..

8/10 Tokyo: Stars and Stripes Building breakfast, Tsukiji Fish Market, Hama Rikyu Garden, waterbus up Sumida River to Asakusa. Asakusa: Kaminarimon Gate, stalls on Nakamise Dori lane, visit Sensoji Buddhist Temple. Have fortunes told. Noodles and tempura lunch. Subway to Harajuku. Harajuku: Omote Sando Dori stores (Oriental Bazaar, Kiddy Land, La Foret, Sesame Street floor etc.), Takeshita Dori lane boutiques, noodle shop dinner. Subway to Nogizaka and Hardy Barracks..

8/11 Tokyo: Stars and Stripes Building breakfast. Visit Tokyo Stock Exchange. Yokosuka Line train to Kamakura (30 miles south of Tokyo). Walk up shopping street to Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shinto Shrine. Tempura lunch. Enoden two-car train to Hase Station. Walk up to Hase Kannon Buddhist Temple (gilded Kannon statue, Jizo statues). Drinks on terrace overlooking Sagami Bay. Buy Buddhist monk statue. Walk up to Great Buddha (Daibatsu) statue. Bus back to Kamakura. Yokosuka Line train to Tokyo Akihabara electronics district. Laox store. Subway to Harajuku: dinner at Subway (American-restaurant-chain-type). Subway (train-type) to Nogizaka and Hardy Barracks..

8/12 Tokyo: Stars and Stripes Building breakfast. Subway to Tokyo Station. Tokaido Shinkansen (bullet train) to Odawara and Hakone Region (60 miles southwest of Tokyo). Hakone Tozan Mountain Railway 2-car train to Miyanoshita: luncheon in Fujiya Hotel Main Dining Room, tour Hotel gardens. 2-car train to Gora. Funicular to Sounzan. Aerial cable car to Owakudani ("Greater Boiling Valley"): hike by boiling sulphurous hot springs. Eat hard-boiled eggs cooked over steam vents. Views of Mt. Fuji. Aerial cable car to Togendai. Man-of-war replica across Lake Ashi from Togendai to Hakone. More views of Mt. Fuji. Bus to Odawara. Local Tokaido Line train to Tokyo. JR Train to Harajuku: dinner at noodle shop. Subway to Nogizaka and Hardy Barracks.

8/13 Tokyo: Taxi to Miyako Hotel. Airport Limousine Bus to Narita Airport. Fly JAL 747 to Hong Kong. Fly Cathay Pacific 747 to Ho Chi Minh City (Tan Son Nhut). Met by family. Dinner in rooms at Lai Minh Motel on Phan Dinh Phung (former northern part of Hai Ba Trung) Street. Overnight at Lai Minh Motel.

(N.B.: Most printed materials refer to it as "Ho Chi Minh City". In normal oral usage, it is usually still "Saigon").

8/14 Ho Chi Minh City: Breakfast at Vietnamese restaurant. Drive around the city. Shop for ao-dai and dress material on Dong Khoi (formerly Tu Do) Street and at An Dong Market. Daniel buy Vietnamese money and Chinese "Swiss Army" knife. Visit Thuy's old house off Nguyen Dinh Chieu (formerly Phan Dinh Phung) Street; tour Museum of American War Crimes; tour former Presidential Palace (now "Reunification Hall". Drive by old U.S., British Embassies. Haircuts at hair stylists' shop. Vietnamese food dinner at hotel rooms. Overnight at Lai Minh Motel.

9/15 Ho Chi Minh City: San's and Minh's relatives stop by Hotel. Breakfast in Chinese restaurant. Drive around Ho Chi Minh City. Stop at former COMNAVFORV and Vietnamese Navy Headquarters buildings. Walk around downtown: Ho Chi Minh statue in front of Rex Hotel, Nguyen Hue and Dong Khoi (Tu Do) Streets. Shop for lacquerware, cinnamon-smelling jars, T-shirts. Visit fortune teller and Thuy's uncle and family. Dinner at Chinese Restaurant. Walk around Saigon Floating Hotel and waterfront. Overnight at Lai Minh Motel.

8/16 Ho Chi Minh City. Western breakfast at restaurant on Dong Khoi Street. Chat with Filipino Arthur Anderson agent (who sported a cellular phone – usable in Ho Chi Minh City. Buy baguettes and cashews. Drive to Cu Chi: tour tunnels dug by Viet Minh and Viet Cong during the wars. See tourist rifle range. Drive to Tay Ninh: Tour Cao Dai Holy See: Great Temple (services just letting out), grounds, and Pope's house. Fascinating. See local wonder: gigantic banana bunch. View Nui Ba Den Mountain in distance. Drive to Cambodian border area past Go Dau Ha. See checkpoints and smugglers. Closed bridge traps us between river and border. We cross river in a sampan and call Ho Chi Minh City for somebody to pick us up at Go Dau Ha. Drive back to Ho Chi Minh City. Dinner at Liberty Restaurant on Dong Khoi Street, seated next to Russian women. Overnight at Lai Minh Motel.

8/17 Ho Chi Minh City. Brunch in Hotel rooms. Revisit seamstress. Drive through Cholon and Tan An (beautiful churches and pagodas) to the edge of the Mekong Delta. Drive to Dong Tam: Visit Snake Farm. Buy snake products. Drive to ferry crossing and watch ferries crossing the Mekong. Drive to My Tho: Walk along riverfront park and shop in Central Market. See President Thieu's old house. Drive back to Ho Chi Minh City: Dinner in hotel rooms, ice cream at Saigon Floating Hotel, drinks on Majestic Hotel roof terrace, overlooking the river. Overnight at Lai Minh Motel.

8/18 Leave Ho Chi Minh City. Drive northeast on Bien Hoa Highway – still a good road. Stop for baguettes, pho, and manioc. Then drive southeast to Xuyen Moc: Walk around hot springs, eat hard boiled eggs. Then to Vung Tau. Pass Russian-Vietnamese oil company (Vietsovpetro) compound. Lunch at seafood restaurant on the water. Lacquered pangolins for sale at stand outside. Drive along ruined corniches to tour Bach Dinh (Emperor Bao Dai's "White Villa"): Buy souvenirs. Corniche from Front Beach to Bai Dua (Roches Noires), and then to Bai Sau (Back Beach). Swim at Bai Sau. View giant Jesus statue. Drive to and walk through Thich Ca Phat Dai Buddhist statuary park. Dinner at Seafood restaurant on the water. Overnight at a nice hotel.

8/19 Leave Vung Tau. Drive into Highlands. Rice gives way to pepper, fruit, rubber, tea. Brick house construction gives way to wood. Stop along road for jackfruit (kids rebel). Lunch at Do Huu restaurant and store in Bao Loc. Buy tea, pepper, coffee. Chat

with Swiss tourists. Begin to see Montagnards with baskets on their backs, not just Vietnamese with baskets on poles. Arrive in Da Lat: Many local Vietnamese bundled up in scarfs and parkas and thick hats, to ward off the "cold". View Prenn Falls. View Datanla Falls. Visit Emperor Bao Dai's Summer Palace and grounds. Go out on the Xuan Hung Lake in peddle boats. Shopping for cobra and bear products. Dinner at Vietnamese restaurant. Overnight at a lousy villa.

8/20 Da Lat: Find guides and drive into Montagnard areas. Drive to Cam Ly Falls. Drive to Valley of Love: Diana and Daniel ride horses. Peter met Sandy Klein from Buffalo and her adopted Vietnamese children. Lunch at Vietnamese restaurant. Walk around old (no longer very) French-style area. Drive around Da Lat University campus. Drive to Da Lat Central Market. Shop. Drive to Da Lat Flower Gardens. Dinner at restaurant at Gardens. Overnight at Villa at Gardens.

8/21 Leave Da Lat. Stop for breakfast. Drive to Thap Cham/Phan Rang. Stop at Po Klong Garai Cham Tower ruins, by French fort and cactus. Drive up coast past Cam Ranh Bay. See people staking out claims to land; salt pans; and – perhaps – a Russian submarine. Drive to Nha Trang: Drive along beachfront past old Vietnamese Navy buildings. Boat to Mieu (Tri Nguyen) Island to view aquariums and fish ponds. Lunch. Swimming in front of hotel at Nha Trang beach. Beautiful beach. Vietnamese dinner at restaurant. Duong's relatives stop by. Overnight at Hotel 48 Tran Phu (OK).

8/22 Leave Nha Trang. Drive up coast. Pass Po Nagar Cham towers. Stop at Ganh Rang seafood restaurant on stilts over the water outside Qui Nhon. Dan orders "fried chicken"; gets a "fried chicken". Detour off Route 1 to Son My Memorial (My Lai). Tour Son My Memorial monuments, museum, markers. Drive to Da Nang. Eat not-very-good meal/overnight at Thanh Nha Hotel (crummy).

8/23 Da Nang: Drive through city to China (Non Nuoc) Beach. Pass miles of old U.S. Naval Support Activity warehouses, revetments, and facilities. Pass Marble Mountains. Swim/shower at China (Non Nuoc) Beach. Beautiful beach. Buy souvenir ashtrays from Marble Mountains. Lunch includes venison and fries. Drive up and over Hai Van Pass. Spectacular. Stop at village for coconut milk drinks and encounter former ARVN sergeant/ American army interpreter. Drive into Hue. Dinner at beautiful Western-style hotel in New City right on Perfume River (dreadful food). Overnight at Hoa Hong Hotel (nice) across the street (little electricity each evening).

8/24: Hue: Western breakfast at hotel. Drive to Imperial Citadel and hire English-speaking guide. Tour Citadel area: Flag Tower, 9 Holy Cannons, Ngo Mon (Noon) Gate, Thai Hoa Palace, Halls of the Mandarins, 9 Dynastic Urns, Forbidden Purple City, Imperial Museum. Hear concert by costumed musicians playing traditional instruments. Shop for opium pipes, water pipe and print. Visit Thien Mu Pagoda. View famous 7-story tower, sanctuary with Buddhas, marble turtle, great bell, famous car that transported 1963 self-immolating monk, tombs of monks. Lunch. Then drive around to visit three of the Imperial Mausoleums: tombs of recent emperors Tu Duc, Minh Mang (approached across Perfume River by sampan), and Khai Dinh. Sugar cane drinks while waiting for sampan. Thuy shops for poem hat. Dinner. Overnight at Hoa Hong Hotel.

8/25 Breakfast and depart Hue. Very long drive. Pass over new bridge at Dong Ha. Enter old DMZ. Cross 17th parallel at Ben Hai River over Hien Luong Bridge into former North Vietnam. Ferry across Cua Gianh River. Pay toll at new bridge and drive

into Vinh. Eat not-very-good Vietnamese dinner. Overnight at Kim Lien Hotel (crummy).

8/26 Hire guide in Vinh. Stop for pho. Drive to and tour Ho Chi Minh's birthplace. Beautiful area. See mother's family's house at Sen, father's family's house at Chua, museum, shrine. See people venerating statue of Bac Ho. Return to Vinh. Drive North, with mountain border with Laos to our left. Cross Thanh Hoa Bridge. Drive across Red River Delta area to Hanoi. Find and visit with Thuy's Uncle Cam, 64B Ton Duc Thang Street. Dinner. Overnight at Sao Mai Hotel (OK).

8/27 Hanoi: Dong Xuan Market. Drive around Hanoi with cousin. Lunch at Nha Noi Ho Tay Restaurant on West Lake (Ho Tay – where LCDR/Sen. McCain parachuted). Tour Tran Quoc Pagoda and gardens on West Lake. View monument to downers of American pilots. Visit and tour Temple of Literature (Van Mieu); learn Thuy has a Mandarin ancestor immortalized on a stele there. Drive around perimeter of Hoa Lo Prison ("Hanoi Hilton"). Drive around Opera House area. Walk around One-Pillar Pagoda (Chua Mot Cot). Walk through and shop (Peter's bathing suit) at State General Department Store. Pick up Uncle Cam and go to Lenin Park. View Lake, B-52 wreckage, old SAMs. Then to Quan Thanh Pagoda on Truc Bach Lake and giant bronze Buddha. Then to Ngoc Son Temple complex on island in Hoan Kiem Lake. View giant turtle (Diana buys turtle statue for Peter, for when he gets Ph.D. degree). View outside of St. Joseph's cathedral. Dinner at Uncle Cam's house. Overnight at Sao Mai Hotel.

8/28 Hanoi: Line up for and file through Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum. View Ho Chi Minh's body. Walk through grounds of old French Government House to tour Ho Chi Minh's House. Buy world and Vietnam maps, 100-armed Buddha wooden statue. View Flag Tower. See Lenin statue. Tour Army Museum, including Dien Bien Phu model, piles of B-52 wreckage and American pilots' helmets, tank that knocked down gates of President's Palace in Saigon in 1975, etc. Tour Museum of the Revolution, tracing history of Vietnamese rebellions and wars, and of Vietnamese Communism. See captured U.S. Embassy and ADM Chon plaques, French guillotine. Buon bo lunch in hotel rooms. Then walk up and down Pho Trang Thi and Pho Trang Tien, main shopping streets. Buy Chinese brick video game, Asterix comics in Vietnamese, gold bracelets, ring, bean curd "ice cream". Drinks and ice cream at the Sofitel (Metropole) Hotel. Visit Uncle Cam. Fried shrimp at restaurant on Truc Bach Lake. Overnight at Sao Mai Hotel.

8/29 Depart Hanoi with Uncle Cam. Drive south in the rain to Phu Ly, then take Nam Dinh road a short ways, then turn east 6 km to Bich Tri, Thuy's birthplace, which she had left in 1955. Beautiful area. At Bich Tri, visit church and what's left of Thuy's old family compound, and have tea at convent. Meet old nun who taught Thuy, and other nuns. Find tomb of Thuy's father, grandfather, and other family in rice fields. Drive to Thuy's sister's husband's village Dap Quan Trung and visit various family members, who raise silkworms for their silk. Daniel is offered a puppy. Return to Hanoi. Lunch at same restaurant on Truc Bach Lake. Hunt around in shops for traditional Northern costume for Thuy (no luck). Buy T-shirts. Dinner at "202" Western restaurant. Overnight at Sao Mai Hotel.

8/30 Hanoi: Stop by Sofitel Metropole Hotel for croissants, and stop for pho at hole-in-the-wall restaurant on Hai Ba Trung Street. See former U.S. Consulate next door. Cross Red River over new Chuong Duong Bridge, next to old Long Bien (Paul Doumer) Bridge. Drive east across Red River Delta to Haiphong. Drive through Haiphong and take ferry, then a second ferry. Drive east to Bai Chay and Ha Long Bay. Find hotel, eat

late lunch at beachfront restaurant, walk a couple of miles into town, as far as Hon Gai ferry. Thuy buys two chickens to kill for dinner. Walk back. Dinner. Overnight at Hotel (Serenaded by Karaoke).

8/31 Bai Chay: Drive to waterfront and rent boat for 4 1/2 hour cruise on Ha Long Bay. Incredibly beautiful. Climb up and visit island with Cave of Marvels. View Two Fighting Cocks Islands. Back to hotel for lunch of veal and rabbit. Drive back past Bai Chay Beach and over two ferries and through Haiphong to Hanoi: Dinner again at "202" Western restaurant. Overnight again at Sao Mai Hotel. (Daniel plays slot machines in hotel lobby).

9/1 Hanoi: Stop for pho at hole-in-the-wall restaurant on Hai Ba Trung Street again. Drive back to Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum area shops for statue part and more maps. Thuy shops with sister. Peter and kids walk around Hoan Kiem Lake, through Old Quarter, and through Dong Xuan Market. View animal and snake market. Meet Vietnamese student who wants to practice his English. All lunch at Uncle Cam's: Steak, fries, and snails. Then tour very new Ho Chi Minh Museum. Buy T-shirt. Dinner yet again at Lake Restaurant. Water Puppet performance and traditional Vietnamese music concert at theater. Overnight at Sao Mai Hotel.

9/2 Hanoi: (Vietnamese National Day). Drive past banners at Mausoleum. Eat pho. Drive to Noi Bai Airport. (Others drive back to Ho Chi Minh City). Fly Vietnam Airlines 747 to Hong Kong. Taxi to Stanford Hotel, Kowloon. Dinner at Spaghetti House, Nathan Road, Mongkok. Shop at Temple Street Night Market, Yaumatei (T-Shirts, hand bag, calculator, etc). Eat snails at dai pai dong food stall. Walk to hotel.

9/3 Hong Kong. Subway to Macau Ferry Terminal. Jet Foil to Macau. City bus and walk to Pousada de Sao Tiago Hotel: Macanese luncheon in Grill Fortaleza. Hitch hike with Filipina Avis Rent-a-Car girls and city bus to Barrier Gate at Chinese border. Buy visas and walk across to Chinese border city of Zhu Hai. Buy sandals. Tour markets and shops. Cross back into Macau. City bus to Avenida Almeida Ribeiro: Walk to Palacio de Macau Chinese Floating Casino and back: Window shop and view old Portuguese buildings. Dinner at MacDonald's. Shop at Yaohan Department Store (Swatch). Last jetfoil back to Hong Kong. Taxi to hotel.

9/4 Hong Kong. Subway to Peninsula Hotel, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon: Continental luncheon at Gaddi's. Subway to U.S. Navy Fleet Arcade temporarily in Asian House, Wanchai, Hong Kong Island (shop for satin sheets, jewelry rolls and boxes, Swiss Army knife tweezers). Walk through Wanchai to Kung Fu Supplies store (buy numchucks, wooden weapons). Double-decker tram ride back and forth between Wanchai and Central. Subway to Nathan Road, Kowloon. Shop for clothes. Dinner at Spaghetti House, Mongkok. Walk to hotel.

9/5 Hong Kong: Walk to and through Bird Market, Mongkok. Subway down Nathan Road to Jade Market, Yaumatei. Shopping and window shopping down Nathan Road to Tsimshatsui (Buy clothes. At Yue Hwa buy cloisonne bells, ram statue, watch). Lunch in Peninsula Hotel Lobby. Window shop at hotel arcade shops. Walk to Chinese Arts and Crafts Ltd. (buy cloisonne clock, gold jewelry). Star Ferry to Central, Hong Kong Island. Window shop at Hilton. Peak Tram funicular up and down Victoria Peak. Walk to The Mall at Pacific Place (buy vest at Marks & Spencer). Double-decker bus to Aberdeen: See boat people and take shuttle boat to Jumbo Floating Restaurant: Cantonese dinner, picture taking in costumes. Shuttle boat, double-decker bus, Star Ferry, subway, and walk back to hotel.

9/6 Hong Kong: Walk down Nathan Road to Jade Market: buy bracelet and steel balls. Walk up Nathan Road: buy books, massager, clothes etc. Walk back past Ladies Market (buy Sony Discman) to Hotel. Take Hotel shuttle bus to Airport. Fly JAL 747 to Tokyo. Dinner and overnight at Hotel Nikko Narita.

9/7 Fly JAL 747 non-stop from Tokyo (Narita) to Washington (Dulles).



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

October 4, 1993

Captain Peter M. Swartz, USN (Ret.)

Dear Peter:

Many thanks for your report of your visit and for thinking of me. I have marked a copy of your materials and this letter to our friend, Admiral Chon, whom I am sure will have an interest.

All best wishes for continuing success.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

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(703) 527-5380

cc: Admiral Tran van Chon