

DEBORAH TANNEN

700 LIVE OAK DRIVE
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22101

January 11, 1997

Admiral Elmo Zumwalt
1000 Wilson Blvd.
Suite 3105
Arlington VA 22209-3901

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

First, let me congratulate you again on the remarkable dinner held in your honor at Renaissance. Although my husband and I have only been attending Renaissance for four years, we have already come to feel very strongly attached to the many people we have met there. It has been clear to us from the start that your family is a pivotal force there. We have felt from our first year that it has been a privilege to meet you and your family in this special environment.

Second, I want to thank you for treating me to lunch on December 31. I am still embarrassed that I neglected to take any money with me. Since you were so generous, I want to offer you copies of my books. It may seem grandiose of me to send three, but each one seemed of possible interest to you for different reasons.

That's Not What I Meant!, my first book for non-academic readers, was inspired (as the book says at the outset) by my own cross-cultural marriage (my first husband was Greek). It is about communication between people who have different conversational styles, including both subcultural differences such as region and ethnicity and the vast cultural differences of language and country. I thought this one might interest you because your marriage is also cross-cultural.

You Just Don't Understand is the book that most people know me for, the one that is responsible for my having been invited to Renaissance, so I didn't want to not send that one.

Yet Talking From 9 to 5, my most recent book, might interest you as well, as it includes observations about communicating in the military (see chapter 3 or the index)--including the observation you made yourself that orders are often given indirectly--as well as my discussion of how linguistic factors might account, in

part, for the glass ceiling--something you so courageously mentioned at the panel.

Thank you, too, for your willingness to discuss with me the tragic case of Admiral Boorda. If I do end up using the section on this in my next book, I would like to take you up on your offer to look at it and make sure you (and the Admiral's family) feel I do the Admiral's memory justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Tannen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Deborah Tannen



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

January 23, 1997

Deborah Tanham

Dear Deborah:

Many thanks for your letter of January 11 and for the books which I am looking forward to reading. I am sure that Mouza and I will find much in the first book to remind us of our experiences.

I will be looking forward to receiving the chapter on Admiral Boorda at some point.

All best wishes.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

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