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11 December 1974

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

For inexplicable reasons I have only now received your kind letter of the 20th of June, written on the eve of your retirement from your distinguished navy career, the last part of which I have followed with great admiration and interest.

I cannot forget ~~your~~ your good understanding and comradeship shown on the many occasions when we met during my tenure of office when I was your opposite number here. I am sure that both of us have done a lot to strengthen the bonds of friendship between our navies and for the defense of their common interests. I sincerely hope that those bonds may become more and more strengthened in all circumstances.

My wife and I will never forget your charming wife's and your visit to Lisbon and we send to you both our best Christmas Greetings and wishes for the new 1975 and for many others of lasting happiness.

I beg your indulgence for the involuntary delay of my answer and to rely always on my personal friendship.

Warm regards

F. Ornelas e Vasconcelos
Admiral, Ret.

Admiral E.R. Zumwalt
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