



Rep. ...
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Commander in Chief
United States Pacific Fleet

22 June 1974

Dear Bud,

All appears to be on track for my trip to Washington next week for the Navy's farewell to you. I'm not sure however, that there will be a good opportunity then to really get across my personal deep sense of appreciation for your selfless performance, so I will try to distill some of my thoughts here for you to read in quieter days.

In some ways it's hard to believe that four years have gone by since you took the helm. I still recall clearly our discussions at the Hotel FUJIYA as you were beginning to chart out the course you would steer. There have been some heavy days along the way, but you should have a keen sense of satisfaction about having seldom had to settle for a less adventuresome tack. I have particularly admired your willingness to fight anybody, anytime during these four years for what you thought was right.

Your impact on the Navy during these four years has been so great that it will never again be the institution you took charge of four years ago. The balance sheet for that impact is weighted very heavily on the positive side. I wish that the contemporary press had given greater recognition to the magnificent achievements you have made in ensuring the Navy is equipped to be a ready force in the decades ahead.

For me, probably the most significant of your many achievements has been your success in getting a greater share of the resources available to DOD allocated to the Navy. Closely following is the huge success achieved by great personal effort in getting Congress to authorize and fund most of what DOD would allow (and occasionally more). I am keenly aware of how unselfishly you devoted an incredible amount of your personal energies to these tasks, and I don't know of any one else who could have pulled it off.

Beyond my gratitude for what you have accomplished for the Navy, I want to be sure you know how very much I have appreciated your personal trust and confidence in me, as most clearly shown by selecting me to be your Vice Chief and then CINCPACFLT. I have worked hard to earn and retain that confidence, and I have a personal sense of satisfaction in knowing that in both good times and bad, you knew you had my full support.

My particular regret at this moment is that the Navy will now lose, so early, your brilliance and incredible energy. I know you will not be able or willing to live a sedentary life in the months and years ahead. I only hope the Nation finds other places where your many talents can be used to all our best advantage. But you have certainly earned a long overdue rest, and I hope you will make the most of the opportunity. Norma and I would just be delighted if it should prove possible for you and Mouza to do some of that relaxing out here, without all the demands on your time that a CNO visit always entailed.

Norma joins me in wishing for you, Mouza and the family every conceivable happiness in the years ahead. We hope to see you often and ask that you join us whenever you can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. F. Weisner', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

M. F. WEISNER

Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN
Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department
Washington, D. C. 20350

5 July 74
YDCC

Dear Mickey,

I was touched beyond recounting by your heartwarming letter and by your generous reflections on my efforts over the past four years.

I recall very well our discussions at the Fujiya, our shared enthusiasms and aspirations. Even more vivid, however, are my recollections of the peerless friendship, loyalty and support as well as the sage counsel which you have provided me in your various capacities over this period. In all circumstances you have been my strong right arm -- and I am not unaware of the personal cost which that role entailed. You have my sincere admiration and gratitude.

Mouza and I are struggling through the packing-moving-unpacking frenzy to our new residence in Falls Church. My plans are still very much in the R&D phase but we intend this to be our operating base at least for a time. We both hope very much to enjoy the company of the Weisners either in our home or on the island soon and often in the days ahead.

You know, I'm sure, that you have our fondest and best wishes for every happiness always. God bless you!

Warm regards,

Admiral Maurice F. Weisner, USN
Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet
FPO San Francisco 96610

Bob
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WEISNER, M.F.