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TO: Admiral Elmo Zumwalt

Dear Admiral ³Zumwalt:

1. I spoke with a friend and colleague about the Bangkok portion of our trip. Andrea Panaritis, Executive Director of the Christopher Reynolds Foundation in NYC, mentioned that with former Secretary of State Ed Muskie, on her two trips with him, they requested the US Embassy in Bangkok to obtain rooms for them at government rate, I believe at the Imperial Hotel, about 20 minutes drive from where our press conference would be. The rates are about \$85 for a nice single room. This is a first class Bangkok Hotel although the Oriental probably does merit its reputation of "The World's Best Hotel". My only concern is that it is far from the Bangkok airport, past the hotel where our press conference will be, the Dusit Thani Hotel, and a bit expensive, with no discounts to the best of my knowledge.

2. In Hanoi, the best hotel by far for us would be the Sofitel Metropole. It happens also to be across the street from the less expensive "Foreign Ministry or Government Guest House" The first is about \$165 plus tax per night single or double, the other about \$50-\$75/night. The next best hotel after the Metropole is the Saigon Hotel in Hanoi and is about \$65-\$80/night. Hotels in Hanoi are of very low quality. On a very tiring trip we want and need air conditioners that work, no mosquitos, water and hot water in the bathrooms, and no large rats or bugs in our rooms or the dining rooms. Only the best Hanoi hotels assure we do not have these problems. Vietnam exhausts most Americans, and we have a very challenging schedule, so pacing ourselves seems indicated.

3. In Ho Chi Minh City, the Rex Hotel, a former US Military Officers Quarters, is quite convenient, of high quality, good phone, fax, etc and has a swimming pool and a roof top bar and dining area which is very popular. It is where many western ambassadors stay. The Continental Hotel next door is nicer with its remodeling in the French style, but a bit more expensive. The Rex used to have single rooms from \$50 up and suites with two bedrooms and one luxury bath room for about \$150. The Continental quoted a National Geographic reporter a rate of about \$160/night plus tax for next week for a nicer than average room, at least that is what she believes.

4. I sent faxes to the Metropole and the Rex and am waiting for their response as to room availability. I assume we need 5 singles, or perhaps someone would be willing to double up, which is usually not a problem except for sleeping with jet lag and gastroenteritis which is common to Vietnam visitors.

5. I reached your son, Jim, today and will try to work with him to help him with his story or stories for Time or other magazines. We had a very pleasant conversation, except he calls me "doctor" just as I call you "Admiral"; perhaps we will mellow with time.

6. I just spoke with Mr. Ca Van Tran. He will try to confirm the Metropole or Saigon Hotel in Hanoi and the Rex or Continental in Saigon City. He will also try to meet Dr. Le Cao Dai in Hanoi and Dr. Phuong in Saigon.

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7. I will send you copies of the faxes I send to Vietnam, Bangkok etc regarding our trip. We will try to collect these and send previous ones to you tomorrow.

8. On Mr. Muskie's two trips, he was met at the airport in Vietnam by Foreign Ministry Officials, taken to a hosted dinner, and hosted and paid his hotel for a dinner for the Vietnamese on his last day in Hanoi. We could do the same, or ask 60 Minutes to host an end of stay visit which CNN agreed to do at the end of our Vietnam trip in the past.

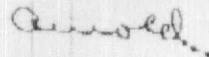
9. I looked at your schedule and will try to help with it. The Minister of Health meeting may be a waste of time. He does nothing with Agent Orange and seems to have little interest in it. I need to know whether the specific places and times were those proposed by the Vietnamese or are American suggestions. The hospitals especially can be tricky to time. Saturday night would be an excellent time to try to have the US business community in Hanoi host a reception and dinner for you. I cannot remember if I have your Ok on this. Would such a meeting have your approval? I would try to include businessmen and women, diplomatic community, Vietnamese key officials and NGOs such as the Quackers, National Council of Churches, etc.

10. I would suggest being in Saigon by Monday night. All the Agent Orange was sprayed in the south and we and 60 Minutes will have almost all of our Agent Orange and dioxin work to be conducted in the south.

11. Please send me a copy of Dr. Dal's proposed schedule.

12. Your secretary does a wonderful job. I wish we were so organized and efficient.

Sincerely yours,



Arnold Schecter