

SEP 28 1994

Rev Ray W. Stubbe

Saturday 24 September 1994

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington VA 22209

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

I am a retired Navy chaplain who served in Vietnam 1967-1969, a major portion of which was at Khe Sanh (July '67 - Mar '68) as Chaplain of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines, a time that included the Siege battle. Prior to my retirement in 1985, I initiated an organization of those who had served in the Khe Sanh area, of all branches of the Armed Service, an organization which now numbers approximately 3,000 members, and of which you are a member. (I believe you have visited Khe Sanh at one time or another). I also wrote two books of non-fiction history of Vietnam: Inside Force Recon (with Michael Lee Lanning), and Valley of Decision (with John Prados).

Last week, a member of our organization telephoned me to say that CNN was broadcasting a news program which included both you and a North Vietnamese General who spoke about Khe Sanh. The program had already been broadcast, and I am unsure whether he may or may not have heard what is said correctly.

During your visit to Vietnam, however, if you can recall any of the North Vietnamese officials speaking of anything related to Khe Sanh, I would be most interested in what may have been said. With your permission, we could print your comments in our Khe Sanh Veteran magazine. I am confident this would be of great interest to our membership.

Please permit me also to express my very deep gratitude for your obvious concern for the human aspects of life in the Navy while you were CNO, especially through the various Z-Grams. I shudder to think of what our Navy and its personnel would have endured had it not been for your insight and creative management during the very significant years of profound transition. As a chaplain, my memory of the impact of your leadership was a matter of giving life, and for that I will always be grateful to you.

May God always bless you.

Sincerely,



RAY W. STUBBE



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

September 30, 1994

Rev. Rav W. Stubbe

Dear Rev Stubbe:

With regard to your letter of 24 September, during our visit with General Giap we asked him what strategy he had in mind with regard to Khe Sanh--did he intend to pull off at Dien Bien Phu or was it an harassment operation.

He indicated that his strategy was the latter--i.e., to be able to attrit our reinforcements and attrit the bases from which the reinforcements came.

All best wishes.

Sincerely,

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

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