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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Box 4529 / Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013 / (806) 742-3742, 742-3744 / Fax: (806) 742-1060

December 24, 1993

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 641
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Admiral:

Thank you for your letter of 16 December, which I received yesterday. Concerning the next round of invitations to join the National Council, I will prepare draft letters for President Lawless and present them to him after the New Year. At present I feel as though the letter from President Lawless should undergo only minor modification from the original ones sent to Ambassador Colby and Douglas Pike. However, as the people we are now asking to join lack Colby and Pike's intimate knowledge of the Center, it probably would be appropriate to add a bit more background information in your cover letter. I will make some suggested changes and forward the revised letter to you for your consideration next month. I understand that General Powell may well decline our invitation; however, I would like to at least try him. It is possible that our effort will strike a sympathetic chord with him.

Concerning the possibility of a visit by General Giap: I think I can say categorically that we would be extremely interested in hosting some function for him here in Lubbock. In fact, should there be political considerations that would make his presence in Washington not entirely desirable, then could I suggest that Lubbock as a venue for his visit would be far enough away from the capitol that there would be little or no need for anyone in government even to acknowledge his presence? At present, I do not know where the money necessary for the visit would come from, but I am ready to make a major effort here to provide funding for a Zumwalt/Giap visit to Lubbock. I am certain that many people within our community would help.

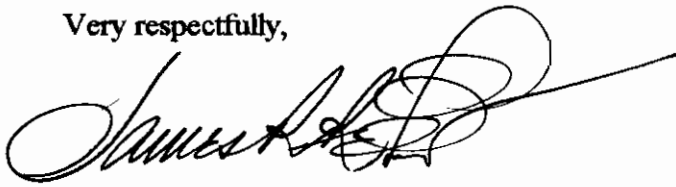
I would like to add here that I am in regular communication with Lt. Gen. Philip Davidson, whom you most probably already know. He lives here in Texas and is exceedingly interested in having a discussion with General Giap. Is there any possibility that he might participate in a panel discussion with you and General Davidson here in Lubbock? Of course we would arrange all of the requisite social functions and security.

VIETNAM CENTER ADVISORY BOARD
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Texas Tech Library
Lubbock, Texas 79409-0002 (806) 742-3758
Fax: (806) 742-1920

In another local development, \$3.5 million has now become available for a long planned International Cultural Center for Texas Tech. Construction is supposed to be complete by 1995. The Vietnam Center has been offered offices in the new building. I feel that that would be the most appropriate place from which to operate, and therefore have accepted the offer on behalf of the Vietnam Center. Like the new "Special Collections" building that will eventually house the Vietnam Archive, the International Cultural Center is a project of many years of one of the other members of faculty; it is just fortuitous that these things are all coming together just as our own effort is beginning to mature.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James R. Reckner", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

James R. Reckner