

TITLE PLACED BY AGENT ORANGE, VIETNAM REFERRED TO R. ADMIRAL'S HELP
WITH VIETNAM-INNOCENT VICTIMS
AP PHOTO NY191-941
BY MORT ROSENBLUM
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM (AP) - LONG AFTER LUSH GROWTH MARKED
THE SCARS OF AGENT ORANGE ON THE LANDSCAPE, DOCTORS HERE RASE THE
DEADLY EFFORTS FOR A SECOND-GENERATION WAVE OF CANCER AND BIRTH
EFFECTS.

VIETNAMESE SPECIALISTS ARE SEEKING SUPPORT FROM RETIRED U.S. ADM.
ELMO ZIMMALT, WHO COMMANDED NAVAL FORCES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

"MANY, MANY FRIENDS OF MINE DIED," SAID ONE OF THE SPECIALISTS,
DR. NGUYEN THI NGOC PHUONG OF TU DU HOSPITAL.

ZIMMALT WAS AMONG OFFICERS WHO ORDERED THE SPRAYING TO DENY COVER
TO VIETNAMESE TROOPS. HE RATHER AGENT ORANGE FOR THE 1988 CANCER
DEATH OF HIS SON, WHO SERVED UNDER HIS COMMAND, AND FOR BRAIN DAMAGE
TO HIS GRANDSON.

HE IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE FRIDAY FOR A WEEKLONG TOUR OF VIETNAM TO
ASSESS WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO COUNTER THE AFTEREFFECTS.

PHUONG SAID SURVEYS SHOW THAT DIOXIN FROM AGENT ORANGE LINGERING
IN BODY TISSUE AFFECTS YOUNG MOTHERS AS WELL AS MEN EXPOSED. DECADES
AGO, SHE PREDICTS A CLOSER LOOK WOULD REVEAL DRAMATIC PROPORTIONS.

"WE MUST CARRY OUT LONG-TERM STUDIES, BUT WE CAN'T," SHE SAID.
"AFTER WE CONCENTRATE ON SCHOOL, HOUSING, FAMILY PLANNING, IT
COSTS TOO MUCH FOR US."

DR. ARNOLD RECHTER, A DIOXIN SPECIALIST AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON WHO IS COMING TO VIETNAM WITH ZIMMALT,
DECLINED TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS FROM STUDIES DONE SO FAR.

"WE JUST DON'T KNOW YET," HE SAID. "WE HOPE TO CONVINCE THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT TO FUND ITS OWN SCIENTISTS TO DO DIOXIN RESEARCH, IN
COOPERATION WITH THE VIETNAMESE, FOR THE PROFIT OF EVERYONE."

UNTIL 1971, U.S. PLANES SPRAYED 12 MILLION GALLONS OF AGENT
ORANGE, CONTAINING 774 POUNDS OF DIOXIN. RESEARCHERS SAY DIOXIN CAN
REMAIN IN HUMANS FOR DECADES, TRIGGERING CANCER AFTER LONG DORMANT
PERIODS.

ITS USE IN THE WAR REMAINS CONTROVERSIAL, EXPOSING U.S.
COMMANDERS TO CHARGE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE. ZIMMALT SAID RECENTLY HE
WOULD SPRAY AGENT ORANGE AGAIN IF IT WAS THE ONLY MEANS OF
PROTECTING HIS FORCES FROM JUNGLE ANNIHILATION.

AFTER THE WAR, IMPOVERISHED AND ISOLATED VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS DID
ONLY SKETCHY RESEARCH INTO CONTAMINATION. THEY FOUND MANY PRESUMED
VICTIMS HAD DIED UNDIAGNOSED IN REMOTE MOUNTAIN AREAS.

AT TU DU HOSPITAL, PHUONG MAKES HER POINT WITH VISITS TO A GRIM
WARD WHERE YOUNG WOMEN WHO WERE REBORN FROM MOTHERS SPRAYED BY
AGENT ORANGE ARE TREATED FOR CANCER OF THE PLACENTA DURING
PREGNANCY.

STATISTICS SHOW A SHARP INCREASE OF THESE DISORDERS -
CHORIOCARCINOMA AND MOLAR PREGNANCIES - AMONG WOMEN IN THEIR EARLY
20S, ALTHOUGH RECHTER CAUTIONS THIS HAS NOT BEEN POSITIVELY LINKED
TO DIOXIN.

NEARBY, 10 DEFORMED CHILDREN PLAY LITHELY IN A FEW ROOMS,
THEIR PERMANENT HOME. GROTESQUE SKULL SHAPES, MISSING LIMBS AND
CLEFT PALATES ALL SUGGEST AGENT ORANGE.

IN ANOTHER WING, MEN ARE TREATED FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER AND
LUNGS.

"THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM, NOT ONLY MEDICAL BUT ALSO
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL," SAID DR. LE CAO DAI, IN HANOI, WHO HEADS A
COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS USED DURING THE WAR.

SOME FOREIGN DONORS HAVE MADE SMALL GRANTS TO PAY FOR THE COSTLY
PROCESS OF DIOXIN SCREENING, HE SAID, BUT VIETNAM HAS BEEN ABLE TO
SPARE ONLY A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR RESEARCH.

"THE U.S. HAS SPENT MILLIONS AND MILLIONS TO DO RESEARCH ON ITS
VETERANS, WHO WERE HERE FOR A YEAR AND DID NOT HAVE THEIR DROP ON
THEIR HEADS," DAI SAID. "A LOT OF AMERICANS DON'T WANT TO KNOW."

U.S. SCIENTISTS SAY THAT WORK IN VIETNAM HAS BEEN LIMITED BECAUSE
OF A TRADE EMBARGO LIFTED ONLY IN FEBRUARY. ZIMMALT SAID HE DELAYED
HIS OWN VISIT UNTIL OFFICIAL BARRIERS CAME DOWN.

BUT NOW THE ISSUE IS UNDER FRESH SCRUTINY. U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY RESEARCHERS AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
HAVE FOUND DIOXIN IS MORE TOXIC THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED, RECHTER
SAID.

DR. LENNART HARDELL, A SWEDISH SPECIALIST, HAS LINKED CANCER OF
NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA, HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA AND SARCOMA TO DIOXIN
REMAINING FOR YEARS IN BODY TISSUE.

LITTLE HAS BEEN DETERMINED ABOUT GENETIC EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE.

NON-SCIENTIFIC RAMPAGING ACROSS SOUTH VIETNAM SUGGEST CAUSE FOR
CONCERN. ALL ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL THROUGH SOUTH
VIETNAM, HEALTH WORKERS REPORT MYSTERIOUS SYMPTOMS.

IN THE HEAVILY SPRAYED A SHAU VALLEY, DR. LE ANH MINH OF A LUOT
DISTRICT HOSPITAL SAID 20 PERCENT OF YOUNG MOTHERS MISBORN WITH
PROBLEMS POTENTIALLY LINKED TO DIOXIN.

HE RATHER LIVER CANCER, BRAIN DISORDERS AND SEVERE MEMORY LOSS
ON THE LINGERING EFFECTS OF AGENT ORANGE. WITH NO FIGURES TO GUIDE
HIM, HE GUESSES LOCAL LIFE EXPECTANCY HAD DROPPED FROM 40 YEARS TO
45.

STUDIES DONE WITH HELP FROM EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE SCIENTISTS SHOW
THAT DIOXIN CONTAMINATED THE FOOD CHAIN AND POISONED MOTHERS' MILK
IN SOUTH VIETNAM FOR YEARS AFTER THE WAR ENDED.

DAI ESTIMATED 300,000 TO 400,000 DEFORMED CHILDREN WERE BORN
AFTER THE SPRAYING. MOST DIED. VIETNAM TYPICALLY SEES ONE SET OF
BIRTH TWIN EVERY 10 YEARS, BUT 30 WERE BORN IN THREE SOUTHERN
PROVINCES ALONE.

IN RECENT YEARS, DIOXIN LEVELS HAVE LOWERED IN THE SOUTH, EVENING
OUT WITH THE NORTH. BUT, ACROSS VIETNAM, THE ILLEGAL BUT WIDESPREAD
USE OF DIOXIN-ACED PESTICIDES IN FARMING AGGRAVATES THE SITUATION.

"WE HAVE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ALL OF THIS, AND WE NEED HELP," DAI
SAID IN HANOI. "AFTER WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE, VIETNAM IS THE
WORLD'S GREATEST LABORATORY FOR DIOXIN RESEARCH."

AP-TK-07-09-94 1330GMT

RC-VIETNAM-ZUMWALT, 1ST J.D-WRITETHRU
U.S. ADMIRAL WORKING WITH FORMER ENEMY TO PATCH VIETNAM WAR'S
WOUNDS

FBI UPDATER WITH ZUMWALT MEETING VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT LE DUC ANH
NEW TO SOME POINTS

AP PHOTO HANOI-50

BY GEORGE ESPEY

AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HANOI, VIETNAM - A U.S. ADMIRAL WHO ORDERED THE SPRAYING OF AGENT
ORANGE IN VIETNAM TOLD THE COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT SATURDAY THAT HE
FEELS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP HEAL THE WOUNDS OF THE
VIETNAM WAR.

RETIRED ADM. FIMO ZUMWALT JR. MET FOR 30 MINUTES WITH PRESIDENT
LE DUC ANH IN AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER TWO OF
THE HIGHEST-LEVEL FORMER BATTLEFIELD ENEMIES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A
QUARTER OF A CENTURY. THE TWO SHOOK HANDS AS ZUMWALT ENTERED THE
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

"AS ONE WHO WAS A COMMANDER OF FORCES IN THAT WAR, I HAVE FELT A
VERY SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP DEAL WITH THE WOUNDS OF THAT
WAR," ZUMWALT SAID.

THEIR MEETING WAS ANOTHER INDICATION OF WARMING RELATIONS BETWEEN
VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES. AS THE TWO NATIONS PREPARE TO OPEN
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN EACH OTHER'S CAPITALS.

ZUMWALT, NOW 73, LIVES IN ARLINGTON, VA. HE RETURNED TO VIETNAM
FRIDAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 25 YEARS FOR A WEEKLONG VISIT IN MEMORY
OF HIS ELDEST SON, ELMO ZUMWALT III, WHOM HE RELIEVED DIED FROM
AGENT ORANGE WHILE SERVING IN VIETNAM AS A PATROL BOAT COMMANDER IN
THE MEKONG DELTA FROM JUNE 1969 UNTIL AUGUST 1970.

HE DIED OF CANCER IN AUGUST 1988 AT THE AGE OF 42. AGENT ORANGE,
A DEFOLIANT USED BY THE UNITED STATES IN THE WAR, IS ALSO BELIEVED
TO HAVE CAUSED SEVERE LEARNING DISABILITIES IN HIS SON, RUSSELL, NOW
16.

ZUMWALT SERVED AS COMMANDER OF U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN VIETNAM FROM
1968 UNTIL 1970, AND THEN AS CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS UNTIL HIS
RETIREMENT IN 1974. PRESIDENT ANH IS A FORMER GENERAL AND DEFENSE
MINISTER.

AT ZUMWALT'S SIDE DURING THE MEETING WAS HIS YOUNGER SON, JAMES,
49, OF CENTREVILLE, VA.

"I HAVE BROUGHT MY SON WHO IS A VETERAN OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND
THE DESERT STORM WAR AND WHO REPRESENTS HIS OLDER BROTHER WHO HE
LOST IN THIS WAR AS A RESULT OF AGENT ORANGE," ZUMWALT TOLD ANH.

HE SAID ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF HIS TRIP WAS TO COORDINATE JOINT
RESEARCH ON AGENT ORANGE.

AFTERWARD, ZUMWALT TOLD REPORTERS IT WAS A FRIENDLY MEETING
"WITH PLEDGES ON BOTH SIDES" TO CONTINUE JOINT EFFORTS ON AGENT
ORANGE RESEARCH.

ASKED IF HE WONDERED IN ADVANCE ABOUT THE MEETING WITH ANH,
ZUMWALT SAID, "I HAVE FOUND IN THREE WARS THAT THOSE WHO WERE IN
COMMAND OF FORCES ARE AMONG THE FIRST WHO ARE EAGER TO BIND UP THE
WOUNDS AFTER THE WAR."

"I CERTAINLY FOUND THAT TO BE THE CASE IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH
THE FORMER GENERAL HERE, ONE OF WHOM IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNTRY," HE ADDED. "I THINK ON BOTH SIDES THERE'S RECOGNITION
THAT IT'S TIME TO PUT IT BEHIND US."

EARLIER SATURDAY, ZUMWALT TOLD VIETNAMESE SCIENTISTS THAT HE
FEELS A RESPONSIBILITY "TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES."

"WE WILL, WHILE HERE, BE DOING OUR BEST TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE
FOLLOW-ON SCIENTIFIC WORK," HE TOLD THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
INVESTIGATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHEMICALS USED DURING THE
VIETNAM WAR.

HE SAID THAT WORK WOULD BE CARRIED ON BY ANOTHER VIETNAM WAR
VETERAN AND LEADING AMERICAN EXPERT ON AGENT ORANGE, DR. ARNOLD
SCHecter, AND HIS ASSOCIATES.

SCHecter REPORTED THAT RESEARCHERS IN THE UNITED STATES, VIETNAM
AND ELSEWHERE HAVE FOUND ELEVATED DIOXIN LEVELS IN MANY PEOPLE
LIVING IN VIETNAM, SOME OF THE CASES FROM AGENT ORANGE.

HE SAID THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN WASHINGTON
WILL RELEASE A THREE-YEAR, \$18.30 MILLION STUDY NEXT THURSDAY
REASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF DIOXIN.

"IT WILL FIND THAT FROM A HEALTH STANDPOINT, THERE'S CONCERN
ABOUT CANCER, REPRODUCTIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL EFFECTS, IMMUNE
DEFICIENCY AND OTHER HEALTH EFFECTS," HE SAID. "IT IS HOPED THAT
WE CAN LEARN HOW MUCH CANCER, HOW MUCH LEARNING DISABILITIES IN
CHILDREN, OR MALFORMATION, IS CAUSED BY THESE TOXIC CHEMICALS AND
DIOXIN."

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RC-VIETNAM-ZUMWALT WAR REMEMBRANCES

OLD AMERICAN WARRIOR SALUTES COMRADES-IN-ARMS

AP PHOTOS HAN101-21

BY GEORGE ESPER

AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HANOI, VIETNAM (AP) - THE OLD WARRIOR STOOD IN FRONT OF THE HANOI HILTON PRISON RUNDAY AND SALUTED THE HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN POWS JUST AS IF THEY WERE STILL BEHIND ITS GUARDED STONE WALL AND IRON DOORS. IT WAS EMPTY NOW, BUT JUST THE SAME, ADM. FIMO ZUMWALT JR. THOUGHT OF HIS COMRADES-IN-ARMS AND FRIENDS, THOSE WHO WERE TORTURED, THOSE WHO MADE IT HOME, THOSE WHO DIDN'T.

ZUMWALT'S PATROL INTO THE ANGUISH OF A QUARTER-CENTURY AGO ALSO TOOK HIM TO HANOI'S ARMY MUSEUM, WHERE HE SALUTED CAPTURED AMERICAN WEAPONS AND THE WRECKAGE OF A B-52 BOMBER BECAUSE, IN ALMOST EVERY CASE, THEY REPRESENTED AMERICANS WHO DIED.

"IN MY MIND, EACH OF THOSE PIECES OF EQUIPMENT SERVE AS MEMORIALS TO THOSE GALLANT MEN," HE SAID.

ZUMWALT WAS COMMANDER OF U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM FROM 1968 UNTIL 1970. BY THE TIME AMERICAN POWS WERE RELEASED IN 1973, HE WAS IN WASHINGTON AS CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.

NOW 73, HE RETURNED TO VIETNAM FOR THE FIRST TIME FRIDAY ON A WEEKLONG VISIT IN MEMORY OF HIS ELDEST SON, FIMO ZUMWALT III, AND TO ENLIST HANOI'S COOPERATION IN AGENT ORANGE RESEARCH. ZUMWALT ORDERED THE SPRAYING OF AGENT ORANGE DURING THE WAR TO STRIP AWAY THE FOREST AND JUNGLES THAT PROVIDED COVER FOR COMMUNIST TROOPS. HE SAID IT SAVED THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN LIVES.

BUT ONE THAT WAS LOST WAS HIS OWN SON, WHO WAS EXPOSED TO THE DEFOOLIANT WHILE COMMANDING A PATROL BOAT IN THE MEKONG DELTA. HE DIED IN AUGUST 1988 AT THE AGE OF 42 FROM CANCER. HIS FATHER SAYS HE IS CERTAIN WAS CAUSED BY AGENT ORANGE. AGENT ORANGE ALSO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE CAUSED SEVERE LEARNING DISABILITIES IN THE YOUNGER ZUMWALT'S SON, RURRELL, NOW 16.

ZUMWALT HAD NEVER SEEN THE HANOI HILTON NOR THE ARMY MUSEUM UNTIL THIS VISIT. HE HAD NO AUTHORIZATION TO GO INSIDE THE GATES OF THE PRISON, BUT IN HIS MIND, HE PICTURED THE CELLS, AND TOOK A ROLL CALL OF THE POWS, SOUNDING OFF THE NAMES:

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN, ADM. JIM STOCKDALE, ADM. JERRY DENTON, ADM. BILL LAWRENCE.

"I FOUND MYSELF HAVING TEARS IN MY EYES AT THE THOUGHT OF WHAT THEY WENT THROUGH WHILE SOME AMERICANS WERE CLAIMING THEY WERE BEING WELL TREATED," HE SAID. "I KNEW SO MANY OF THE WONDERFUL YOUNG MEN AFTER THEY CAME HOME AND LEARNED FIRST HAND OF THEIR EXPERIENCES."

BUT NOW, BEING HERE, BEING FOR THE FIRST TIME THE DRAB YELLOW, FOREBODING WALLS OF THE PRISON THAT COVERS FOUR BLOCKS IN DOWNTOWN HANOI, DROVE HOME EVEN MORE FORCEFULLY FOR ZUMWALT THE HORRORS THE POWS WENT THROUGH.

"I DON'T FEEL HATRED, BUT I DON'T FEEL THE NEED TO FORGIVE," HE SAID. "I AM WILLING TO WORK WITH THE VIETNAMESE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR SOCIETIES AND OURS, A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THEIR SOCIETY BEING THE PEOPLE THAT FOUGHT ON OUR SIDE AND HAVE SUFFERED EVEN MORE BADLY THAN THOSE WHO FOUGHT ON THE COMMUNIST SIDE."

"THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE BASICALLY ARE A DECENT, CARING PEOPLE. THE EVIL MINIONS WHO CARRIED OUT THE TORTURE HERE AND THEIR IMMEDIATE LEADERS WHO AUTHORIZED THE TORTURE SHOULD HAVE BEEN TRIED AS WAR CRIMINALS. I CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE DISPOSED TO FORGIVE THEM," HE ADDED.

ZUMWALT SUPPORTED PRESIDENT CLINTON'S DECISION TO LIFT THE 19-YEAR TRADE EMBARGO AGAINST VIETNAM IN FEBRUARY, BUT HE IS OPPOSED TO RESTORING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS UNTIL THE UNITED STATES IS SATISFIED THAT VIETNAM HAS MADE THE FULLST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION.

THE HANOI HILTON WAS BUILT BY THE FRENCH IN 1914. THE FRENCH USED IT TO DETAIN MANY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST RESISTANCE PRIOR TO THEIR DEFEAT IN 1954 THAT BROUGHT THE UNITED STATES INTO THE WAR.

IRONICALLY, THE HANOI HILTON IS BEING DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR A \$1.3 BILLION FIVE-STAR HOTEL AND OFFICE TOWER. IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT AMERICANS WILL BE WORKING AND STAYING THERE, THIS TIME IN LUXURY.

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RC-VIETNAM-URR

REUNITING WAR'S WOUNDED. TWO LEGENDARY BATTLEFIELD FOES MEET IN PEACE

AP PHOTOS HANOI-71

BY GEORGE FRER

AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HANOI, VIETNAM (AP) - TWO OLD BATTLEFIELD FOES WHO LOST LOVED ONES TO WAR'S CRUELTY MET FACE-TO-FACE IN PEACE FOR THE FIRST TIME SATURDAY, TWO DECADES AFTER THE GUNS FELL SILENT IN VIETNAM. THEY SHOOK HANDS AND WARMLY EMBRACED EACH OTHER.

"I'M VERY ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU TODAY AND WELCOME YOUR VISIT," SAID THE LEGENDARY VIETNAMESE GEN. VO NGUYEN GIAP. "I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FAMILY."

ADM. FIMO ZUMWALT JR. TURNED TO GIAP. "I LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU, GENERAL," HE SAID. "YOU ARE A LEGEND IN YOUR OWN TIME AND I KNOW THAT YOU SHARE MY VIEW THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO BIND UP OUR WOUNDS."

ZUMWALT, NOW 73, LIVES IN ARLINGTON, VA. HE RETURNED TO VIETNAM ON FRIDAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 25 YEARS FOR A WEEK-LONG VISIT IN MEMORY OF HIS ELDEST SON, FIMO ZUMWALT III, AND TO ENLIST HANOI'S HELP IN AGENT ORANGE RESEARCH.

BOTH HE AND HIS SON SERVED IN VIETNAM BETWEEN 1968 AND 1970. THE ADMIRAL, WHO WAS COMMANDER OF U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN VIETNAM THEN, ORDERED THE SPRAYING OF AGENT ORANGE TO STRIP AWAY JUNGLE COVER FOR GIAP'S COMMUNIST TROOPS.

ZUMWALT'S SON WAS EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE WHILE COMMANDING A PATROL BOAT IN THE MEKONG DELTA, AND DIED IN AUGUST 1988 AT THE AGE OF 42 FROM CANCER HIS FATHER SAYS WAS CAUSED BY AGENT ORANGE. THE DEFOLIANT ALSO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE CAUSED SEVERE LEARNING DISABILITIES IN ZUMWALT'S GRANDSON, RUSSELL, NOW 16.

GIAP, NOW 87, DEFEATED THE FRENCH AT DIEN BIEN PHU IN 1954. HIS WIFE, MINH KHAI, A COMMUNIST MILITANT, WAS ARRESTED FOR ANTI-FRENCH ACTIVITIES AND DIED IN PRISON. A DECADE LATER, GIAP HELD OFF HALF-A-MILLION AMERICAN TROOPS.

HE ALSO LAUNCHED THE TET OFFENSIVE IN 1968, A BOLD ATTACK AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAM'S CAPITAL THAT SHOOK U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE WAR.

WITH THE WAR STALEMATED AND AMERICAN CASUALTIES RISING, THE UNITED STATES WITHDREW IN 1973. TWO YEARS LATER, THE NORTH TOOK CONTROL OF THE SOUTH.

ZUMWALT ASKED GIAP MORE QUESTIONS THAN HE WAS WILLING TO ANSWER ABOUT THE WAR, ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL DID REVEAL THE STRATEGY BEHIND A 77-DAY SIEGE OF THE U.S. FORTRESS AT KHE SANH IN 1968.

GIAP TOLD ZUMWALT THAT HE NEVER INTENDED TO CAPTURE KHE SANH, ONLY SURROUND THE BASE AND LURE AMERICAN REINFORCEMENTS INTO KILLING ZONES BEFORE ATTACKING THE POSITIONS FROM WHICH THE REINFORCEMENTS CAME.

"VERY GOOD STRATEGY," ZUMWALT TOLD REPORTERS LATER. "I WISH I HAD KNOWN AT THE TIME ABOUT KHE SANH WHAT I KNOW NOW. WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE NOT REINFORCED IT QUITE AS HEAVILY AS WE DID."

GIAP TOLD ZUMWALT THAT VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES NEED TO MOVE FASTER IN ESTABLISHING FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE TWO NATIONS WILL OPEN LIAISON OFFICES IN EACH OTHER'S CAPITALS SOON, THE FIRST STEP TOWARD FULL RELATIONS.

ZUMWALT INVITED GIAP TO THE UNITED STATES FOR A SEMINAR ON THE WAR.

AFTER THEIR MEETING, GIAP AUTOGRAPHED A COPY OF HIS BOOK,

"PEOPLE'S WAR, PEOPLE'S ARMY," FOR ZUMWALT.

ZUMWALT PRESENTED HIM WITH A SIGNED COPY OF HIS OWN BOOK, "ON WATCH," ABOUT HIS FOUR YEARS AS CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS FROM 1970 UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 1974. HE WROTE:

"TO GEN. VO NGUYEN GIAP, WITH RESPECT TO A FORMER ADVERSARY AND NEW FRIEND."

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