

Dear Bud
largely self explanatory
Many regards
KEX

NM file
bas

AUG 18 1989

15 August 1989

Dear Bill:

Your letter of 9 August is sincerely appreciated and certainly is above and beyond that which I expected...since in truth, my "news" item to Gus did not really rate a reply.

Your information is exactly the kind that I need and was very comprehensive and informative at this particular time; I am indebted to you. But let me proceed to some specifics.

"Conflicting information and rumours abound over TAN's activities..." While it has been a long time since the takeover of SVN, (I was relieved by Bobby Inman in September 1974), I do recall "some rumors" subsequently, which did not reflect well on TAN. However, I need memory refreshing in this context and need to be pointed to authoritative documentation. Maybe Tom could help in elaborating on "ties" to the current regime. This type of information is vital for me to have in order to determine an appropriate course of action.

Both TAN and Admiral CHON chose, of their own free will, to remain with their families and loved ones and to take their "punishment"...unlike hundreds of others who chose alternate courses. Now that I am concentrating on my memory bank, I seem to remember that one of TAN's assistants did get out and made an allegation, the substance of which I have forgotten and which at the time, I considered unreliable, in poor taste, and smacking of some "sour grapes". I suppose, even if collaboration allegations are present, I would tend to be somewhat charitable. TAN was probably the most "sensitive" person in the Vietnamese Navy and was undoubtedly subjected to pressures not inflicted on any other SVN naval officer...and with his large family as hostage, some bending might not have been inappropriate. And of course, both he and CHON have and are paying dearly.

I believe that I can reach Admiral CHON through Bud Zumwalt which might prove fruitful. Having said all of the

allegation. After the fall of SVN, TAN cooperated with victors.

Addresses requested that they must be "politically squeaky clean"

Especially when he took over command of the Security Service

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Tpm
BROOKS

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above, and while his conduct is a factor, my respect for TAN and what he did to save American lives is not diminished. At one point in the SEA LORDS campaign, our casualties in the Delta far exceeded those of the Army or Marines. Until we started rotating the SWIFTS/PBRs in the new operations, the crews had a 50% chance of being killed or wounded in a one year tour. Obviously, I credit TAN and his organization for a good deal of the success of SEA LORDS and the lessening of casualties. And of course, one can debate the concrete results of SUNSHINE PARK and the fact that State could not be convinced of the sanctuary problem in Cambodia. Nevertheless, it was a brilliant operation, the authenticity of its results verified by the Cambodian incursion.

I have written two sets of letters, prior to and after the signing of the U.S.-Vietnamese accord on the emigration of those political and military people who were closest to the Americans. Each set (with different texts of course) have been sent to Ambassador O'Donohue (Orderly Departure Program), Bangkok, State Department (Ricki Gold, SEA Refugee Program), and to Senator John Heinz, who has personally written to O'Donohue as has Admiral Zumwalt. I also wrote letters to Mrs. TAN on 24 May and 1 August from which no replies have been received.

John Heinz and his staff have been more than cooperative and are actively involved at this point. For this reason alone, if TAN's activities with NVN were less than honorable, it is important that I have all information available and I would appreciate anything you can do to facilitate the gaining of such knowledge.

Your "Special Item of Interest" is beautifully written and I thank you very much. Enclosed is a copy of the letter which was received from Mrs. TAN for whatever value it may contain.

Attached also to this letter is an item relating to the bas-relief at the Navy Memorial which will commemorate the Navy in Vietnam. I would hope that this or something similar could find a place in the NIP Quarterly.

Sincere appreciation and warm regards,

William B. Bailey, General Counsel
Naval Intelligence Professionals
PO Box 9324, McLean, VA 22102-9998

Note: TAN, a proud
oriental man, may have
prohibited wives
further enquiry.

Article and photo
of TAN for the
publication.

"NAVY IN VIETNAM" Bas-Relief

As you know Phase I of the U.S. Navy Memorial was dedicated late in 1987. Now, the finishing touches are being added. These include the installation of 22 large, bronze sculptures, or bas-reliefs, on two sculpture walls which flank the Memorial's entrance. One of these bas-reliefs has been designated as a tribute to the Navy men and women who took part in the Vietnam conflict.

Admiral Zumwalt is leading the drive, on behalf of the Foundation, to raise the necessary funds to sponsor this "Navy in Vietnam" sculpture. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated by him as well as by the thousands of Navy personnel who fought in Vietnam and its surrounding waters.

Questions can be addressed to and more information can be obtained from:

*U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation
P.O. Box 12728
Arlington, VA 22209
(Tel. (703) 524-0830)*

AUG 23 1989

24 August 1989

The Ambassador
American Embassy, Thailand
Box 56, APO San Francisco, CA 98346
(Attn: Orderly Departure Program)

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Your attention is invited to my letters of 17 July and 1 August regarding naval Captain Nguyen Van TAN, former Chief of Staff for Intelligence of the South Vietnamese Navy and Chief of the South Vietnamese Naval Security Service.

Herewith enclosed is the second and latest letter I have received from Mrs. TAN and a short biographic sketch and photo for your information and appropriate action.

We would be highly appreciative of any advice regarding ways in which we can assist Captain and Mrs. TAN.

Sincerely,

VADM R.F. RECTANUS, USN (Ret.)
The Anchorage
Weaver Mill Rd
Rector, PA 15677

cc: Senator John Heinz
2031 Federal Office Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15222 (Attn: Thomas Jones)
(With Enclosures)
The Department of State
2201 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20520 (Attn: Ms. Ricky Gold)
(Without Enclosures)

Admin Bnd:

Note: New Subject:

- ① Have received letter from Capt. Jones (As Relief Coordinator)
- ② DNI (Tom Brooks) who served in-country will help promote.
- ③ Dewey Fenerhelm (1630 Captain, Retired) who served you and I as Art Price's I.O. now is Executive Assistant to Bill Thompson.

Warm Regards

RFX



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.

ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

30 August 1989

VADM E. F. Rectanus, USN (Ret.)
The Anchorage
Weaver Mill Road
Rector, PA 15677

Dear Rex:

Thanks for keeping me posted on everything that is going on
associated with our Vietnamese friends.

All best wishes.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209
703/841-8960