

PHONE MEMO

TO Adm 2 DATE 5-5 TIME 1245 AM PM

FROM Lt Gary Donato USN Ret AREA CODE NO. EXT. voicemail

MESSAGE
Would like to interview you regarding his
dissertation entitled "Impact of Nixon
Doctrine on Military Policy"
[let's discuss.]
Gary

PHONED ☐ CALL BACK ☐ RETURNED CALL ☐ WANTS TO SEE YOU ☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ WAS IN ☐ URGENT ☐

calendar

File. Interviews
General

Thurs

Aug 17/95

1000

Interview w/ Gary Donato

2

Little - 16 AUG
Next book

JUN 19 1995

12 June 1995

Admiral Elmo Zumwalt
1500 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209

Admiral Zumwalt:

This letter is a follow-up to a phone call which I made to your office approximately six weeks ago. (I must note that your assistant, when I called, was very courteous and helpful.) The purpose was to ask you several questions regarding your tenure as the Chief of Naval Operations under President Nixon.

I am presently a retired naval officer who is teaching American History and International Politics at a local community college. Additionally, I am a doctoral student at the University of Connecticut. The purpose of my writing is to hopefully open a dialogue to discuss my favorite president and his policies. Specifically, I have been very interested in what has become known as the Nixon Doctrine.

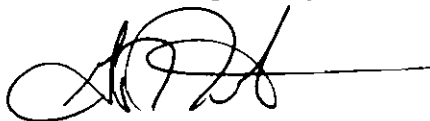
I am most interested in what the effect of the Nixon Doctrine was on the planning process of the military, specifically the United States naval deployment and strategic posture. It seems to me that this was the time period when we went from a two front war to a single, possible a "front and a half" posture. How did this affect you as the CNO both in planning/procurement and in posturing? The Nixon Doctrine has been criticized by many as being "off the cuff", "ambiguous" and of "no particular value". Was this the perception of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and did his announcement on Guam in July of 1969 come as a surprise? It would appear to me, especially after having worked on the staff of COMSUBPAC Strategic Planning, that the military had already been planning the posture shift and the announcement by the President was the culmination of that shift.

Also, would you be amenable to allow me to continue this correspondence to accomplish a three fold purpose:

- a. to allow me to continue my personal interest in the Nixon presidency
- b. to assist me in bringing the clearest and most complete picture of this time period to my students and finally,
- c. to permit me original source material for inclusion in my doctoral work.

Thank you sir, for your time and assistance in my work. I salute you today, as I did when I first entered the military, President Nixon was my first Commander-in-Chief, as you were my first CNO.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Donato', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary Donato, LT USN (ret)