



MAR 6 1990

## Texas Tech University

Department of History  
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28 February 1990

Admiral Elmo S. Zumwalt, USN  
1500 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

Thank you for your kind reaction to my informal request for your support for the Vietnam Archive and Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University. A formal request, of course, will be forthcoming from the president of the university. In this letter I will provide some of the background information about the Vietnam Archive and Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict that you requested when we spoke.

I should begin by telling you that when I chose academia after retiring from the Navy, it had been my intention to avoid Vietnam. But when I returned to the United States in 1987 after nearly twenty years overseas, I was appalled to discover that the younger generation of college students know nothing about the war.

As an example, last semester I asked 50 freshman students to identify the army general most prominently associated with American involvement in the war. The vast majority simply left the question unanswered; those who tried, chose Eisenhower! Of the 50, only one was able to name General Westmoreland! And less than half could locate Vietnam on a map of the world.

Although I am quite new to Lubbock, I contacted a number of Vietnam veterans in the community, and with the support of the Director of Libraries at Texas Tech, we began to organize. In November of last year the Vietnam Archive was formally established, with an initial contribution of \$10,000 from the Library for the acquisition of materials. With that sum we purchased two major microfilm collections of MACV documents, the national security files of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, and a few smaller collections.

At the same time, we framed a formal proposal to the Board of Regents to establish a Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict. Our logic was that it is pointless simply to establish an archive and gather materials without developing a dynamic mechanism to ensure that the archive will continue to develop, and also be used. That proposal was unanimously approved by the Regents in December.

Since then we have framed a number of proposals for funding the primary acquisitions, and have been waiting some decision about who will head our organization. I have been appointed Director of the Center, but we have been particularly interested to enlist a person of your stature to head our Board of Advisors. In that respect, I want to thank you again for your willingness to lend the great prestige associated with your name to our undertaking.

As the framework of our organization has emerged, so also has our teaching emphasis grown. Last Fall I taught a course on the Vietnam War (my first) at undergraduate level. It was fully subscribed on the first day of enrollment, and proved to be an exceptionally popular course. This Fall we will teach Vietnam at the undergraduate level, and will also offer a graduate course in which the students will write original research papers on various aspects of the war, using the materials we are collecting in the Vietnam Archive.

We also have a Vietnam Oral History Project that has begun just this semester. Eight students who graduated from the Fall Vietnam course are busily engaged in recording the oral histories of local participants in the Vietnam War.

Within the next two years we anticipate offering summer courses for high school teachers wishing to teach the Vietnam War. Also, we anticipate that within the same time frame we will organize and host the first of a series of Vietnam conferences which, I am certain, will attract Vietnam scholars and veterans from around the country.

So far, the project has had a number of beneficial effects: the Texas Tech Library has acquired more than \$10,000 worth of primary materials related to Vietnam, and is gearing up to acquire a good deal more. Our goal in this respect, quite simply, is to establish a first-rate Vietnam research facility at Texas Tech University. Our budget priorities, with principal emphasis on acquisition of research materials, reflect this goal.

At the same time, the active involvement of a good number of Vietnam veterans from outside the university has also had a good effect. Every one of them is very excited about the project and very actively supportive. I believe many of them see it as a project that will help record, preserve, and legitimize their own experiences in Vietnam. And almost all of them feel good about getting together to work on the project. So, I think it all has a very positive personal aspect for us.

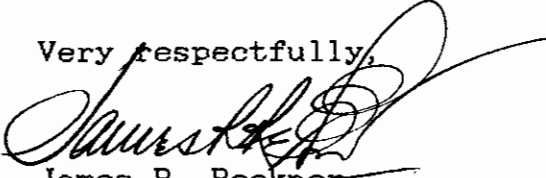
Concerning your participation in the Center, I would particularly request that you accept the position of Chairman of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board. I appreciate that you are far too busy to make any commitment of time to West Texas, which is so distant from your home; therefore, we will elect a vice-chairman from amongst the members who are local residents to handle the day-to-day business. In turn, I will keep you advised, either through letters or by phone, of our activities and progress. As I mentioned on the phone, I anticipate that my own research programs will bring me to Washington at least once a year for the next several years; if it is not inconvenient to you, I would briefly visit you during those trips to keep you up-to-date.

If it is at all possible, though, we would all be most grateful if you could find some time in your busy schedule to make one trip to Lubbock to visit our university (of which we are very proud), and to meet our Advisory Board and some of the members of our community. If that is not possible, of course we would understand, and would still very much appreciate your support of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict.

I am enclosing a list of the current members of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board, a draft budget, and some other materials related to the Vietnam Archive and Center and Texas Tech University.

In closing, I would like once more to express my gratitude for your support.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner  
LCDR, USN Ret

Encl:

- (1) Vietnam Center Advisory Board
- (2) Draft Budget
- (3) Newspaper Clippings
- (4) Vita
- (5) Texas Tech University Information

Enclosure (1) to James R. Reckner letter, 28 February 1990

VIETNAM CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

Major General Dudley Faver, US Air Force, retired  
Brigadier General A. R. Brownfield, US Army, retired  
Colonel Don McCullough, US Air Force, retired, Executive  
Director, Private Industry Council  
Colonel Robert Phillips, US Army, retired, Professor of  
Business Management, Texas Tech University  
Mr. Edward Canas, Attorney-at-Law  
Lieutenant Colonel E. Allen Carrigo, US Army, CO, Army ROTC  
Unit, Texas Tech University  
Dr. E. Dale Cluff, Director of Libraries, Texas Tech University  
Mr. Sal Garcia, Director of Evening Programs, South Plains  
College  
Mr. Don Halsey, Texas Instruments  
Mr. Marshal Harrison, Author  
Ms. Connie Hines, Assistant Director of Libraries for Development,  
Texas Tech University  
Mr. David Holland, Counsellor, Lubbock Vet Center  
Mr. Doug James, Professional Photographer  
Mr. John Lowey, President and CEO, Llano Estacado Winery  
Mr. Larry McAuley, Texas Employment Commission  
Mr. James McCoy, West Texas Glass  
Mrs. Linda Mayes, Phil Price Advertizing  
Dr. David Murrah, Associate Director of Libraries, Special  
Collections, Texas Tech University  
Major Mike Myrick, US Air Force, CO, Air Force ROTC Unit,  
Texas Tech University  
Mr. Jim Pitcock, Crum and Forster Insurance  
Mr. Phil Price, President, Phil Price Advertizing  
Mr. Ken Sanderson, Retailer  
Mr. Dan Siewert, Graduate Student  
Mr. Bill Tynan, Public Relations Officer, Reese Air Force Base

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT  
&  
VIETNAM ARCHIVE  
AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Estimated Three-Year Budget

|  | Texas Tech      | Other         |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>ACQUISITIONS</b>                                |                 |               |
| (Microfilm Collection at TTU Library)              | \$10,000.       |               |
| <u>Records of the Military Assistance</u>          |                 |               |
| <u>Command, Vietnam</u>                            |                 |               |
| <u>Vietnam: National Security Files, 1961-1969</u> |                 |               |
| <u>The War in Vietnam</u>                          |                 |               |
| <u>U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam, 1954-1975</u>     |                 |               |
| <b>Vietnam Documents in Microfilm</b>              |                 |               |
| (University Microfilms of America)                 |                 |               |
| Existing Collections                               |                 | \$38,000      |
| New Collections (1990/91)                          |                 | 40,000        |
| New Collections (1991/92)                          |                 | 40,000        |
| <b>Academic Collections In Microfilm</b>           |                 |               |
| (University Microfilms International)              |                 |               |
| <u>John M. Echols Collection</u> (Cornell)         |                 | 30,000        |
| UC Berkeley <u>History of the Vietnam War</u>      |                 | 25,000        |
| Additional Book Purchases                          |                 | <u>50,000</u> |
|  | Total \$10,000. | 233,785       |
| <b>PERSONNEL</b>                                   |                 |               |
| Assoc. Dir. Spec. Coll/ SWC                        |                 |               |
| (5%-12 mos. @ \$49,888)                            | \$2,494.        |               |
| (Fringe Benefits)                                  |                 |               |
| Special Collections Librarian                      |                 |               |
| (25%, 3 years. @ \$20,500)                         | \$15,384.       |               |
| (Fringe Benefits)                                  |                 |               |

|                            |  |         |
|----------------------------|--|---------|
| Archivist                  |  | 75,000. |
| (100%; 3 years @ \$25,000) |  |         |
| (Fringe Benefits)          |  |         |

|                           |           |  |
|---------------------------|-----------|--|
| Cataloger                 |           |  |
| (15%, 3 years @ \$20,500) | \$ 9,225. |  |

**EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS**

|                          |  |        |
|--------------------------|--|--------|
| Microfilm Reader/Printer |  | 8,000. |
|--------------------------|--|--------|

|                  |          |  |
|------------------|----------|--|
| Conservation Lab | 139,000. |  |
|------------------|----------|--|

|           |         |  |
|-----------|---------|--|
| Map Cases | 10,000. |  |
|-----------|---------|--|

|                    |  |        |
|--------------------|--|--------|
| Microfilm cabinets |  | 10,000 |
|--------------------|--|--------|

|                      |  |        |
|----------------------|--|--------|
| Oral History Project |  | 30,000 |
| Equipment and Travel |  |        |

**MAINTENANCE & OPERATION**

|                  |        |  |
|------------------|--------|--|
| Copier and Paper | 6,000. |  |
|------------------|--------|--|

|                  |       |        |
|------------------|-------|--------|
| ADMINISTRATION   | 2,000 | 10,000 |
| (for the Center) |       |        |

|                   |  |        |
|-------------------|--|--------|
| DEVELOPMENT COSTS |  | 10,000 |
|-------------------|--|--------|

|              |        |  |
|--------------|--------|--|
| Brochures    | 1,600. |  |
| (Phil Price) | 1,578. |  |

|                    |  |        |
|--------------------|--|--------|
| CONFERENCE SUPPORT |  | 20,000 |
|--------------------|--|--------|

One major conference (1992)  
 (All related expenses, including fees for a  
 nationally known speaker)

NOTE: This is a draft budget. It will require considerably more refinement before final submission. Nevertheless, it conveys fairly well the direction and scope of our funding effort.

*JK*