

**CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE
VIETNAM CONFLICT**

**Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-1013
Fax: (806) 742-1060**

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: 14 March 1996

To: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Fax: (703) 528-5795

From: James R. Reckner

Subject: Vietnam Symposium Arrangements

Number of Pages (Including Cover Sheet): 5

If you have problems receiving this document, call: (806) 742-3744

Dear Priscilla:

Attached please find some correspondence for the Admiral's consideration. At Cantigny last week he asked me to draft a fax to General Giap for him. It is attached. As I remember, he sent the last one via the American Embassy in Hanoi.

Also, at the Cantigny meeting, the Admiral promised to call President Ford to get some solid response to his invitation for the President to speak at the symposium. Would you please remind him of that?

Very respectfully,


James R. Reckner

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Bux 41013 / Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013 / (806) 742-3742, 742-3744 / Fax (806) 742-1060

14 March 1996

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite
Arlington, VA 22209

Fax: (703) 528-5795

Dear Admiral:

It was a great pleasure to meet with you at Cantigny, and to share a delightful dinner with you and Jim. The conference was most informative for me and also constructive for the Center.

Vietnam Archive

While there, Dr. Larry Berman of the University of California at Davis offered the Center all of his Vietnam-related papers. He was a consultant for CBS during *Westmoreland v. CBS*, and has a complete set of papers relating to the case, including some White House tapes, the total contents of which have not yet been released. He is also offering us copies of all Vietnam-related documents from the Truman and Eisenhower presidential libraries and thousands of dollars of copies from the LBJ Library. All of the documents in this very large collection are computer catalogued and cross-referenced.

As we continue to gather collections from the four corners of the nation, I am much impressed with how very widely dispersed Vietnam records actually are. As we gather more of these materials under a single roof, their collective value to researchers, I believe, will increase exponentially, as we are at the same time simplifying for all future researchers the process of merely locating the relevant collections.

I am delighted that you will have an opportunity to tour the new archive building during your April visit. Among other things, the new building will have a magnificent researcher reading room. It is two stories high, with cathedral windows that will provide a degree of natural lighting rare for archives. It will be a researcher's dream come true.

Vietnamese Delegation.

I am pleased to report that we have finally nailed down \$15,000 to cover the expenses of a party of five Vietnamese to travel from Hanoi to Lubbock for the symposium. The money comes from a local philanthropist, Mr. W. R. "dub" Rushing. At the ground breaking for the International Cultural Center eighteen months ago, Mr. Rushing said that he thought what we are doing with the Vietnam Center is what makes the

VIETNAM CENTER NATIONAL COUNCIL
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (RET), Chairman
General William C. Westmoreland, Hon. William E. Colby
Hon. William P. Bundy, Hon. Bui Diem, Professor Douglas Pike

ARCHIVE OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT
Texas Tech Library
Lubbock, Texas 79409-0002 (806) 742-3758
Fax: (806) 742-1920

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.

difference between a college and a university. He has now reinforced that assertion with generous financial support. I enclose for your consideration a letter thanking Mr. Rushing.

Invitation to General Giap

Attached also please find a draft fax for your consideration for transmission to General Giap.

Hon. Pete Peterson

I have learned confidentially that the White House is planning to announce today that the President has selected the Hon. Pete Peterson as the first U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. As he has already committed to attending our symposium to report on the POW/MIA situation. I have also extended an invitation for him to speak at the Friday luncheon on his mission to Vietnam. If he agrees, this will displace Doug Pike, but I feel certain Doug will gracefully step aside. I intend to invite Doug to introduce Mr. Peterson.

The thought crosses my mind that Mr. Peterson's selection is a most remarkable choice. I don't believe there has been any case in our history where an individual who spent years in a country's prisons was ever subsequently selected to be accredited to that nation.

Finally, Admiral, permit me to say that everyone at the Vietnam Center looks forward to visiting with you and Mrs. Zumwalt -- and, of course, Jim -- next month.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reekner

Director

encl: Draft fax to General Giap
Draft letter to Mr. W.B. "dub" Rushing

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.

D - R - A - F - T

Dear General:

As the date for our Vietnam Symposium, *After the Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam*, is rapidly approaching and the need arises to make final arrangements, I would like to consult with you once again about the possibility of your attendance.

Doubtless you already know that Lieutenant General Pham Hong Son has accepted an invitation to participate as have two other Vietnamese officials. And we have recently issued an invitation to Lieutenant General Phan Luong Truc. On the American side, we will have General William B. Rosson, Lieutenant General John H. Cushman, Vice Admiral Emmett Tidd, and a number of other flag and general officers, as well as academics from Singapore, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Russia, and the United States. Also present will be our Ambassador-designate to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Honorable Pete Peterson, and we are hopeful that President Gerald Ford will attend. Won't you join us for what promises to be a most important and constructive meeting?

Very Respectfully,

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.

D - R - A - F - T

Mr. W. B. "dub" Rushing
9707 East Mountain View Road,
Unit 1444
Scottsdale Arizona 85258

Dear Mr. Rushing:

Dr. James Reckner, the Director of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University, has advised me of your wonderful generosity in providing \$15,000 to bring a party of Vietnamese officials to Lubbock to participate in the forthcoming Vietnam symposium, *After the Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam*.

I have today corresponded with General Vo Nguyen Giap, the founder of the North Vietnamese Army and long-time Minister of Defense for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to again urge him to join his colleagues in traveling to Lubbock for the symposium.

I believe the Vietnam symposium will be one of the most important conferences about the war conducted anywhere in the world in recent years. It is a great credit to Lubbock and Texas Tech that it should be conducted in your great city. And it is the generous support of the citizens of Lubbock, and particularly you, that has made such an international meeting possible.

I look forward to the opportunity of visiting with you during the symposium.

Notes:

1. Mr. Rushing spells his nickname "dub" with a lower case "d" (Must be a West Texas thing.)
2. Although the address is in Arizona, he is a Lubbock resident. The Arizona address is his winter home.