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January 24, 1996

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Lieutenant General Pham Hong Son  
Ministry of Defense  
Hanoi

Dear General Son:

It is with great pleasure that I invite you, on behalf of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict, to attend and participate in the Center's second triennial symposium, *After the Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam* to be held at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, April 17-20, 1996.

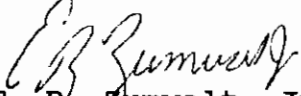
The purpose of this symposium is to provide an opportunity for participants in the war and academics of all points of view to meet and conduct a frank exchange of ideas about all aspects of the conflict in Indochina. We believe this is an appropriate time to reexamine all aspects of the war as the end of the Cold War and the normalization of relations between our two nations has made it possible to conduct a freer international exchange of ideas.

I believe that your extensive study and writings about the strategy of the war would add an extremely valuable contribution to our discussions. I believe, too, that this symposium offers an excellent forum at which Vietnamese and American officials and participants in the war might begin a constructive dialog which will help in efforts to draw our two nations closer together.

Already committed to attend the conference are General William C. Westmoreland, former national security advisor Dr. Walt W. Rostow, former CIA director William E. Colby, former South Vietnamese Ambassador to the United States Bui Diem, former Royal Laotian Major General Vang Pao, leading academics from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, Canada, and Russia, and a number of retired American generals and admirals. I have invited former President Gerald Ford to give the keynote address, and Marine Corps Commandant General Charles Krulak to address the meeting. These two officials have not yet indicated their ability to attend.

The Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict will, of course, cover the expense related to your travel and participation in the symposium. Hoping that you will choose to join us for this important meeting, I remain,

Respectfully,

  
E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.  
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