



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

January 9, 1996

General William C. Westmoreland

Dear ^{W. C.} General:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to join me at Texas Tech University's 1996 Vietnam Symposium, which is scheduled to be held in Lubbock, Texas, 18-20 April 1996. If General Vo Nguyen Giap, who I last year invited, actually attends, I would also like you to participate in a panel discussion with him and me.

I take this opportunity to enclose a copy of the latest agenda for the symposium. You will agree with me that it is most comprehensive, covering virtually every aspect of Vietnam and Laos. The issue of Cambodia, I understand, will be addressed at a later conference.

After some years of struggle, the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech is now taking solid strides in developing what will soon become the leading program in the nation regarding the American Vietnam experience. As you know, they now have an \$8.8 million archive building and a \$3.5 million International Cultural Center under construction. Both of these buildings have spaces specifically designated for the Vietnam project. President Robert W. Lawless of Texas Tech has designated this project the number one funding priority for the university, and I think that is unique within academia today. Dr. Reckner informs me that there are currently ten graduate students working toward theses and dissertations relating to Vietnam, possibly one of the most active graduate study programs in the nation.

I know, General, that many demands are placed on your time. However, I believe the Vietnam project at Texas Tech, with its "longer-than-lifetime" commitment to preserving and studying the record of the American Vietnam experience, is one that deserves your active support. We have, in this remarkable endeavor, the foundation of a living memorial to all those who served in Southeast Asia; a memorial that will remain alive for all future generations. The Vietnam Center, of course, will cover all of your expenses related to participation in the symposium.

Sincerely, *respectfully*

Er

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Enclosure



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E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

General Charles C. Krulak, USMC
Commandant
United States Marine Corps
Navy Annex #2006
Washington, DC 20380

Dear General Krulak:

For the past six years I have served as Chairman of the Board for Texas Tech University's Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict. That Center is dedicated to the preservation of the record of the American Vietnam experience and to the encouragement of continuing study of all aspects of that experience and how it continues to impact upon American society and our armed forces.

The Center is now in the advanced stages of planning its second triennial Vietnam symposium, entitled, *After the Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam*. The symposium has attracted many of the key Vietnam era decision-makers and senior military officers, including William Colby, Walt Rostow, former South Vietnamese Ambassador Bui Diem, General William C. Westmoreland, and me. It is possible that President Gerald Ford will also attend. Although we still await confirmation, I have personally invited General Vo Nguyen Giap to attend; and, if he does, we anticipate that he will participate in a panel discussion with General Westmoreland and me.

Leading academics from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Russia will present papers, and the joint U.S.-Russian Commission on POW/MIA Affairs will report on its search for U.S. Vietnam POW/MIAs in Russia.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to present the opening speech at our symposium, which is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, 17 April 1996. The topic is completely open, but I would suggest something along the line of "The Continuing Impact of the Vietnam War on the Marine Corps" or any topic of your choosing.

I am very aware of your exceedingly busy schedule; nevertheless, I tender this invitation in the hope that you might find time to present the Marine Corps' point of view at this very important symposium.

Sincerely and Respectfully

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

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bcc: James R. Reckner, Ph.D.