

JUL 17 1995

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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July 9, 1995

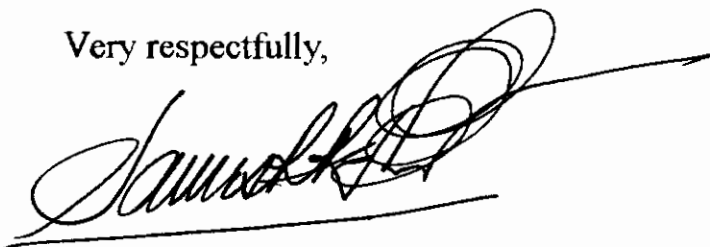
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.  
1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 3105  
Arlington, VA 22209-3901

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Dear Admiral:

I take this opportunity to forward a copy of a letter that I sent to Secretary McNamara, along with its enclosures.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner  
Director

# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

## CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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July 9, 1995

Hon. Robert S. McNamara  
1455 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. McNamara:

Admiral Zumwalt has advised me of your kindly support for our effort at the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict, for which I sincerely thank you. I very much regret that you will be unable to attend the conference.

The program for the conference is still in the formative stage and there will be many additions, I am certain, between now and the closing date for paper proposals. However, the general outline of the program has already emerged, and therefore I am enclosing a copy of the program as it now stands, for your personal information.

Concerning the proceedings from the recent Vietnam Roundtable, I am experiencing the typical difficulties of an editor: I am still waiting for the final paper from one of the contributors. And Doug Pike naturally would like to read that final paper before finalizing his Introduction to the volume. Nevertheless, I am still hopeful that we will produce the book before the April 1996 symposium.

I take this opportunity, too, to enclose a copy of the paper written by Dr. Xiaoming Zhang concerning the extent of Chinese involvement in North Vietnam during the 1960s. Dr. Zhang is a former PRC Navy officer who served in a AAA battery shortly after it had returned from duty in Hanoi. His father was a career PRC Air Force officer who, as a senior colonel, became too closely associated with Lin Biao. Nevertheless, Dr. Zhang cheerfully refers to himself as "an air force brat," having grown up on air force bases around China before his father's disgrace and dismissal.

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In the paper, Dr. Zhang concludes that China was very strongly committed to the defense of North Vietnam. Contrary to the conclusions of men such as Colonel Harry Summers, Zhang argues, had the Americans taken the ground war to North Vietnam, the Chinese *were* prepared to intervene. It is an immensely interesting and valuable paper which, I feel certain, you would like to see now, rather than later when the book is published.

Again, Mr. McNamara, on behalf of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict, I thank you for your valuable support.

Very respectfully,

James R. Reckner  
Director

encl: Symposium Program  
"The Vietnam War, 1964-1969: A Chinese Perspective"