



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

September 29, 1995

General Walt Boomer
President, Power Generation Group
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20 South Van Buren
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Dear General:

The purpose of this letter is to acquaint you with the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University, which I have sponsored and supported since its inception in November 1989. I enclose with this letter some background papers which will provide you considerable detail concerning the Center, its related Archive, and their activities.

We are now in the advanced states of planning our second triennial Vietnam symposium, which is scheduled for 18-20 April 1996 in Lubbock, Texas. The theme of the symposium is particularly relevant in light of the recent normalization of relations with Vietnam: *After the Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam*. The planning agenda for the symposium is attached. You will note that the schedule speakers include the leading academics in the field as well as many of the actual participants, including William Colby, Walt Rostow, Bui Diem and former Royal Laotian Major General Vang Pao. Lieutenant Generals Dave R. Palmer and Harold G. Moore have also been invited. I think that you will agree with me that the program is excellent.

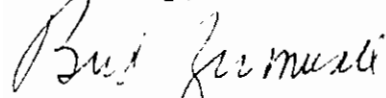
During my visit to Hanoi last September I invited General Vo Nguyen Giap to attend the symposium and to participate with me in a discussion of the War. In June the Director of the Center, a retired naval officer and former senior advisor to South Vietnamese riverine units, participated in discussion with a Vietnamese delegation visiting the United States. The general tenor of that delegation's attitude toward General Giap's possible visit has left us with the impression that either he or General Tran Van Tra or possibly Tran Van Duong (who now heads their national veterans organization) will attend.

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I would now like to invite you to participate in the symposium with me, to present the welcoming address of the conference on Thursday night, 17 April 1996, and to participate in the panel discussion with whichever senior PAVN general actually appears. The symposium planners have tentatively entitled the address, "After the Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam," but they will be amenable to any other title you might suggest within the general framework of reassessing the American Vietnam experience. I believe that with your experience in Vietnam and much later commanding during the Persian Gulf War, your observations would provide an important and highly relevant contribution to the symposium and to our understanding of the continuing impact of Vietnam.

Should you agree to participate, the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict will defray all expenses that you incur.

Sincerely,



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Enclosure

bcc: James R. Reckner, Ph.D.