

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

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

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: November 17, 1995

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

From: James R. Reckner

Subject: Vietnam Center Developments

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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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

November 17, 1995

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

Dear Admiral:

It was a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to meet with you in Washington last week, and also to meet your son, Jim. There have been a number of important developments with the Center since then, and so I take this opportunity to update you.

Carl & Florence King Foundation. We have been notified informally that the King Foundation has granted our entire request for \$51, 870 for microfilm collections for the Vietnam Archive. As soon as we receive formal documentation, I will forward it to you, along with a draft letter thanking Mr. Carl Yeckel, the director of the foundation.

We have decided that the best way to handle this donation is to say nothing publicly for the present, and offer Mr. Yeckel the opportunity to attend the symposium in April and announce the donation himself. We know that Mr. Yeckel tends to return with more donations to projects that he likes; if we give him the opportunity to shine in front of the symposium it can only help our cause.

Perot Foundation. We had contact with Bette Perot yesterday. The Foundation retains a "genuine interest" in our project. At the same time, I had the opportunity to discuss this with General Westmoreland before the Patriots' Ball last Friday. He has agreed again to participate in the approach to the Perots. We are now hopeful that we can get the General and the Perots together within the next few weeks. Once again, I would be more than pleased to make time in the symposium agenda for Mr. Perot to announce his \$6,000,000 donation.

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

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Fax: (806) 742-1920

Vietnam Symposium. Now that General Boomer has declined our invitation, the Advisory Board has decided that they would like to invite Lieutenant General Dave R. Palmer to give the welcoming address. I will get a draft letter off to you within the next few days.

I also chatted with General Westmoreland about his participation in the symposium. He told me that he was reluctant to participate because he didn't want to create any possible feeling that he was taking over an event that has been essentially yours since the beginning. I assured him that I felt certain that you would not have any such reservations [please forgive my presumptuousness]. He then indicated a willingness to come to Lubbock for the symposium. I will send you a draft letter of invitation within the next few days.

Visit of General Giap. I enclose with this fax a copy of a fax I received from Doug Pike yesterday giving his interpretation of developments in Hanoi relating to General Giap, Mr. McNamara, and our symposium. Pike has also forwarded a suggestion that we might invite PAVN Lieutenant General Le Van Duong, who is the deputy commander of their national war college. At this point, we are concerned that we might end up with no PAVN representation; therefore we would prefer to run the risk of more than one accepting and us having to find the money to cover them. That would be more desirable than finding ourselves in April with no one coming from Hanoi. Therefore, the Advisory Board has voted to invite General Le Van Duong. With your permission, I will send you a draft letter of invitation for him. Pike has suggested that we might also have him send an invitation, and we will do that, too.

Other Archive Developments.

Last Friday I signed accepting ownership of the records of the National Coalition of Vietnam Veterans, about 70 linear feet of documents. They will be shipped to Lubbock via UPS sometime within the next week or two. Also, the Hon. J. Eldon Yates has donated all of his papers relating to the founding of the Vietnam Veterans Institute.

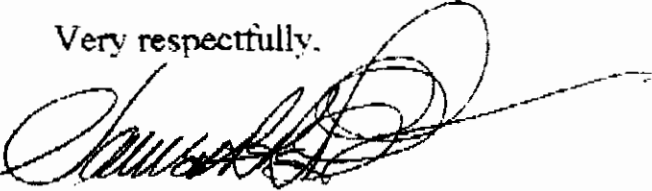
The Hon. Larry Combest, who is Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and also represents Lubbock, has also been very active on our

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behalf. I understand he now has a 22 page list of CIA documents relating to Vietnam which he has requested the Agency to release to Texas Tech. He is also working on the Smithsonian Institution to provide us copies of the materials that they hold.

After years of struggle. Admiral, we now seem to be making some very good progress. As General Brownfield commented in our meeting yesterday, we owe very much of that success to your continuing efforts.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner
Director

encl: Pike Fax