

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

INSTITUTE OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES
Indochina Studies Project

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

NOV. 15, 1995

FAX MESSAGE

TO: JAMES RECKNER, TEXAS TECH

FROM: DOUGLAS PIKE, INDOCHINA ARCHIVE, U.C. BERKELEY (TEL: 510-642-6539; FAX: 510-643-9930)

PAGES: 1

NEITHER THE VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY (AMB. DAO HUY NGOC) NOR THE U.S. EMBASSY, HANOI/STATE DEPARTMENT, OPPOSE A GIAP TRIP TO THE U.S. IN FACT BOTH THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE EFFORT TO "NORMALIZE" RELATIONS. BUT THE TWO DO NOT WANT IT IN THE CONTEXT OF ROBERT MACNAMARA AND CURRENT PLANS (A) TO HAVE GIAP COME TO NEW YORK EARLY NEXT YEAR TO (B) PLAN FOR A LATER CONFERENCE IN HANOI AT WHICH WILL GATHER ALL OF TOP MILITARY AND POLITICAL U.S. AND VIETNAMESE WAR LEADERS (PRESUMING ANYONE FROM THE U.S. SIDE BESIDES MACNAMARA WILL ATTEND).

THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THINGS HAVE GONE TOO FAR TO STOP THEM. POSSIBLY NOT. I SHOULD SAY AT THIS MOMENT ALL REMAINS CONDITIONAL.

I THINK GREAT PRESSURE WILL BE PUT ON BROWN UNIVERSITY AND THE NEW YORK CROWD IF NOT TO CANCEL AT LEAST TO POSTPONE UNTIL AFTER THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (THE WHITE HOUSE, I UNDERSTAND, DOES NOT WANT VIETNAM TO BE BROUGHT UP AGAIN AS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN, WHICH A CONFERENCE LIKE THIS CERTAINLY WOULD DO).

WHAT YOU MUST KEEP IN MIND IN DECIDING HOW TO PLAY THIS IS THAT THINGS REMAIN TENTATIVE. YOU SHOULD NOT GIVE UP ON GIAP. THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NEW YORK TRIP MIGHT FALL THROUGH AND GIAP WOULD STILL BE INTERESTED. THAT WOULD ASSUME BREAKING OF THE MACNAMARA CONNECTION. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, MORE REMOTE, IS THAT GIAP COULD GO BOTH TO NEW YORK AND LUBBOCK WHICH WASHINGTON PEOPLE WOULD APPROVE (AGAIN IF MACNAMARA IS OUT OF THE PICTURE).