

JUL 07 1994

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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July 5, 1994

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 641
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

I forward copies of the following for your information:

1. The request for a special line item for the state budget, which, I am told, has already left the university in its present form.
2. A copy of my most recent letter to the other members of the National Council. The same letter was sent to each of the Council members.
3. A tentative agenda for the 1995 Vietnam roundtable. A committee from the Vietnam Center Advisory Board will meet with Dr. Earl Tilford of the Army War College on 15 July to iron out the details. Everyone on the agenda has accepted with the exception of Generals Davidson and Palmer, to whom invitations have only recently been sent.

Ground breaking for the International Cultural Center has been set for mid-August, and for the Archive, mid-October. The Center will be completed by Fall of 1995, with move-in scheduled during the fall semester. The Archive will take a bit longer, but we still expect to have everything moved in before the 1996 conference.

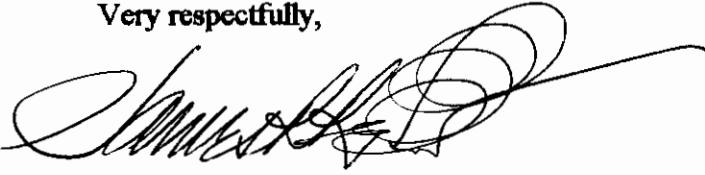
Within the last week I have been trying to convince Doug Pike to move to Lubbock with his archives. The cost of living here is infinitely less than at Berkeley, and the atmosphere (supportive of Vietnam studies) is much more conducive to his work. He is resisting my suggestions at this point, claiming that he prefers California weather, but I am still working on him. I have offered him office space in the International Cultural Center, and of course he would have access to all of the materials in the Vietnam Archive. The trouble is, he is in a bind for money at Berkeley, yet he wants to spend at least a couple more years doing his own research. He told me that he was even thinking of hiring some temporary storage of his own so that he could continue to use his materials. I told him that the ideal solution would be for him to come to Lubbock where he could use the materials all the time, and yet be assured that they were being professionally preserved. Here he would have access to the papers, contact with students, and also contact with other Vietnam academics, as they will increasingly be passing through here either for research or to attend our conferences. I am hopeful that he will see the light, but of course, the older we get the less willing we are to accept the disruption that goes with moving to an entirely new area. That I know from personal experience.))

VIETNAM CENTER ADVISORY BOARD
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (RET)
Chairman

VIETNAM ARCHIVE
Texas Tech Library
Lubbock, Texas 79409-0002 (806) 742-3758
Fax: (806) 742-1920

I will update you concerning the roundtable after our meeting at the middle of the month.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James R. Reckner', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James R. Reckner

**Army War College - Vietnam Center
Vietnam Roundtable
13-14 April 1995**

13 April

- 0815 **Opening Remarks**
- 0830 **Colonel Harry Summers on the Summers Thesis.** Colonel Summers, an Army War College Distinguished Fellow, formerly held the AWC's General Douglas MacArthur Chair. .
- 1000: **The Summers Thesis in Strategic Context.** Dr. Larry E. Cable, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- 1130: **Lunch (independently: not catered)**
- 1330: **The Impact of the Summers Thesis on the Military.** LTC Conrad Crane, USMA, West Point
- 1500: **The Summers Thesis and the Academic Left.** Dr. Marc J. Gilbert, North Georgia College.
- 1800: **Social Hour. Dinner on your own.**

April 14, 1995

- 0830: **The Vietnam War in Strategic Context: A Western Perspective.** Dr. George Herring, University of Kentucky
- 1000: **The Vietnam War in Strategic Context: An Asian Perspective.** Dr. Xiaoming Zhang, Texas Tech University
- 1100: **Briefings on Vietnam Center/Vietnam Archive**
- 1130: **Lunch**
- 1300: **The Vietnam War: General Officers' Views.** Lieutenant General Philip Davidson (author of *Vietnam at War: The History and Secrets of the Vietnam War*) and/or Lieutenant General Dave R. Palmer (*Summons of the Trumpet*)
- 1500: **The Vietnam War: On Winning and Losing.** Dr. Earl Tilford, Army War College

Note: Similar copies were sent to General Westmoreland, Mr. Colby, Mr. Bundy and Ambassador Diem

July 5, 1994

Professor Douglas Pike
Director, Indochina Archiv
6701 San Pablo Avenue
Oakland, CA 94608

Dear Professor Pike:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of some recent developments with the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University.

1. Douglas Pike Collection. The University has now received a formal memorandum of understanding from Mr. Pike concerning the transfer of the Vietnam War portion of his collection to Texas Tech. We have sent an initial \$5,000 to him to cover expenses relating to packaging the collection for shipment. As of July 1st, Pike anticipated that the packaging would be completed and the collection ready for shipment to Texas Tech in August. This collection will be housed temporarily in the University library's special collections area, but will be moved to the new \$8.8 million archive building when it is completed at the end of next year.

2. Funding by the State of Texas. Related to the above developments, the University senior leadership (President and Provost) have now decided to attach some priority to funding for our operations. At the middle of last month the Provost announced that the University would seek a special line item in the state budget for the Vietnam Center. We requested \$451,432 for 1996 and \$173,246 for 1997. (A recapitulation of the funds requested is attached.) Over \$200,000 of the 1996 sum is dedicated to acquisition of materials, including microfilm document collections and map collections relating to Indochina. I am guardedly optimistic that this request will be approved, but, of course, that it might be sidetracked in committee and never be passed is always a possibility.

Aside from the possibility of state funding, the fact that the President and Provost have agreed to request it indicates a "sea change" in the level of support the University will provide in the years ahead. I am pressing to have the Center added as one of the priorities for the University's soon-to-be-launched capital campaign, and have received some indication that we might be nominated for a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

3. Army War College - Vietnam Center Roundtable. We have agreed to co-host a Vietnam Roundtable with the Army War College, to be held at Texas Tech 13-14 April 1995. The focus of the roundtable will be a re-examination of Harry Summers' thesis, outlined in his book, *On Strategy*. Colonel Summers has agreed to speak, as have a

number of other academics. (A copy of our tentative program is attached.) A committee of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board will meet with a representative of the Army War College on July 15th to discuss further details.

4. **Friends of the Vietnam Center Newsletter.** We published and distributed our first "Friends of the Vietnam Center" Newsletter last month. A copy is enclosed. Thus far, new "Friends" have just about paid for the printing and postage, but have not added to our overall account. Nevertheless, the newsletter is still a valuable effort, as it is a mechanism by which we can actively broaden general awareness of our effort here. We mailed out about 2,500 newsletters, and bulk circulated another 1,000. I hope to publish another one in September or October, highlighting ground breaking for our International Cultural Center and our Archive building, as well as the arrival of the Pike Collection at Texas Tech. We will use this medium, too, to announce the Army War College - Vietnam Center Roundtable and to make our initial call for papers for the 1996 symposium.

5. **1996 Vietnam Symposium.** A committee has been formed to begin planning for this symposium. I am optimistic that the 1996 event will far surpass the 1993 symposium. We will benefit this time from the success of the 1993 effort, I am certain. Many more people know about us now than did in 1993. Within the last week I received a letter from Professor William J. Duiker (*The Communist Road to Power in Vietnam, Vietnam Since the Fall of Saigon, etc.*) indicating his desire to attend and to present a paper. I am anxious to have academics of his high level of accomplishment participate, along with those who played an active role in the war. I am anxious, too, to encourage active participation by graduate students and doctoral candidates, for they are the ones who will reinterpret the American Vietnam experience for many years to come.

Concerning the possibility of General Giap participating, Admiral Zumwalt will be visiting Hanoi in September. He intends to hand deliver an invitation from the President of Texas Tech University urging General Giap to participate. Our idea at this point is that he would participate in a panel discussion with Admiral Zumwalt and at least one senior army officer.

6. **Prospects.** I have highlighted but a few of the recent positive developments here. Much of the current dynamism of our endeavor, I feel absolutely certain, is a result of the support of the members of our National Council. I believe that your support alone has caused a number of key people within the University to re-evaluate our program, and to realize that it *is* important: important enough to warrant their backing. We are now rapidly moving toward institutionalizing, and guaranteed basic funding. Our next step will be to find the funding necessary to encourage continuing, balanced scholarship in this field by the brightest of the younger generations. I have no doubt that we will, with your continued support, achieve that goal.

Very respectfully,