

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Box 4529 / Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013 / (806) 742-3742, 742-3744 / Fax: (806) 742-1060

January 29, 1994

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

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

In a conversation with Douglas Pike earlier this week I learned we have encountered a delay in acquisition of the Pike Collection. The problem centers on finding someone in the University of California who can make a decision to approve the transfer. Academics are unaccustomed to making decisions, and, normally, the issues upon which they have to decide are relatively unimportant. It often seems as though the smaller the decision the more difficult it is to come by. It's enough to make me wish I was still on active duty! A copy of my internal memo on this problem is attached.

Not included in the memo was a discussion about General Giap, the gist of which I would like to pass on to you. Pike told me that Steven Young, son of former Ambassador Young, who served in Thailand and I believe Laos during the war, had had a meeting last year with a number of Vietnamese Politburo members. At that meeting, according to Pike, a five point program had been agreed upon which included a visit of General Giap to Minneapolis, and a visit by Giap's wife to the Notre Dame Vietnam conference late last year.

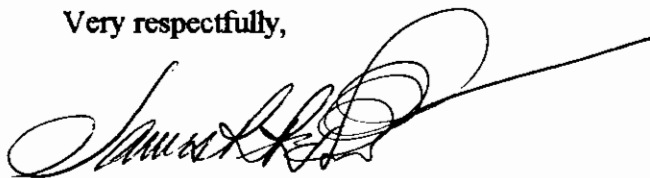
Part of the program also, according to Pike, was that there was to be a meeting in Saigon, at which notable Americans would discuss the multiparty system and methods by which Vietnam might adapt to avoid the pitfalls of following the course of Eastern Europe. In this direction, William Colby and Generals Westmoreland and Vessey were invited to Saigon. Pike believes the Politburo idea was to create the impression that they were being receptive toward democratizing ideas in order to help bring down the embargo.

But somewhere along the line the program went off the track. Pike believes the Vietnamese encountered strong pressure from the Chinese to stop any approaches toward democratization. He says that while he was in Vietnam there was a security alert related to all of this, a result of which was that Giap was forbidden to travel to the United States and his wife's trip was cancelled at the last moment. In fact, Notre Dame people were at the airport to meet her.

I don't know what impact, if any, this might have upon possible future visits by General Giap. It seems to me that the politics of the embargo and getting it lifted could cause very rapid changes both in travel restrictions and in approvals for senior Vietnamese to travel overseas. At any rate, I thought I would pass this information to you. Perhaps you might want to talk with Pike about it. His phone number is (510) 642-6539.

On another front, Major General Dudley Faver has agreed to head up our fund-raising effort. I have been talking with Mr. B.G. "Jug" Burkett, an investment banker with Prudential Securities in Dallas, who was the fund-raiser for the Texas Vietnam Memorial. He has agreed to help us with ideas and strategies he employed to get the memorial built. I am hopeful that we will get our fund-raising effort re-energized within the next week or two.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James R. Reckner", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

James R. Reckner

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

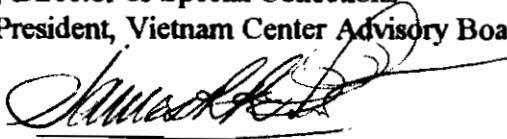
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January 27, 1994

To: Dr. Don Haragan, Executive Vice President & Provost
Dr. Jane L. Winer, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Allen J. Kuethe, Chair, History Department
Dr. E. Dale Cluff, Director of Libraries
Dr. David Murrah, Director of Special Collections
Mr. John Lowey, President, Vietnam Center Advisory Board

From: James R. Reckner



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

Douglas Pike - James R. Reckner

January 27, 1994

I called Douglas Pike to follow up on developments concerning the transfer of his papers to Texas Tech. During our last conversation on December 22, 1993, Professor Pike indicated that he would have an interview with the Director of Berkeley's International Areas Studies Institute, Dr. Buxbaum, after the beginning of the Spring semester.

That interview occurred yesterday. In that conversation, the Director, Dr. Buxbaum, raised the ownership issue. Pike assured him that aside from the furniture provided by the University, all of the remaining materials are his personal property, and that the university's lawyers were in agreement with this view. Pike still envisions no problem on this particular issue.

However, Buxbaum did not want to make any decision concerning the matter. He indicated to Pike that he wanted to use the possibility of the transfer of this material to Texas Tech to "hold the University's feet to the fire" to provide adequate funding for Pike's operations. Pike expressed the feeling that if he does, in fact, attempt to hold the University's "feet to the fire" by posing the threat of losing the papers he proposes to donate to Texas Tech, the University will not react. He believes they will permit them to go without a fight. But all of this will involve further delay in actually transferring the documents. Pike believes in the long run that all of this will not present a major problem; it will just mean more delay.

The Los Angeles earthquake may also have some impact on the collection. Berkeley engineers have visited the earthquake site, and on their return concluded that the building currently housing the China Library is not safe. Present plan is for that library to be transferred to the building currently housing Pike's papers. Pike believes this will create an atmosphere favorable for transfer of his papers, as space will be very limited.

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



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

February 7, 1994

James R. Reckner, Ph.D.
Texas Tech University
Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict
P. O. Box 4520
Lubbock, TX 79404-1013

Dear Jim:

As you will have seen from the copies, I signed the letters that you sent in draft form.

With the lifting of the embargo, I think that future visits there are quite opportune.

I believe that we will see sufficient warming of relations now as the Vietnamese seek to woo us as the final step, i.e., diplomatic recognition, that we can proceed with the assumption that everything will work out.

All best wishes.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 641
Arlington, Virginia 22209

(703) 527-5380

Enclosure