



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

November 12, 1993

Professor Douglas Pike  
Director, Indochina Archive  
University of California  
6701 San Pablo Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94608

Dear Professor Pike:

I am pleased to forward, with my warm support, the attached letter from Dr. Robert W. Lawless, President of Texas Tech University, inviting you to join the National Council for Texas Tech's Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict. Full details are contained in Dr. Lawless' letter and enclosure.

The entire Vietnam Initiative at Texas Tech University is geared toward preserving the historical record of the American experience in Vietnam and encouraging younger generations to examine that record. At present, two doctoral dissertations and three masters' theses on Vietnam-related topics are in progress at Texas Tech, and there is promise of many more such studies in the years ahead. This continuing quest for understanding of America's Vietnam experience can only benefit our nation in the years ahead.

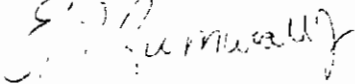
Although the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech is a young organization, I think you will agree with me that it is very dynamic. And, as is apparent from Dr. Lawless's letter, it has institutional support at the University's highest level. The Center successfully hosted its first conference on Vietnam in April; a conference which received warm praise from many of the academic participants. Plans are going forward now for a second conference in 1996, and it already promises to surpass this year's event. Despite the Center's steady progress, there yet remains very much to do.

You have already indicated your interest in this project through your generous donation of time and effort during the April conference and through your offer to donate papers to the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech; therefore, I know you share my interest in seeing this project succeed. In urging you to favorably consider Dr. Lawless's invitation, I am asking you to lend an active hand

Professor Douglas Pike  
November 12, 1993  
Page Two

toward establishing the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict as a, possibly the, premier Vietnam research center for future generations.

Sincerely,



E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

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October 26, 1993

Professor Douglas Pike  
Director, Indochina Archive  
University of California  
6701 San Pablo Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94608

Dear Professor Pike:

In our continuing efforts to develop the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech and to improve the program of research and other activities undertaken by the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech, we have determined to establish, under the chairmanship of Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., a National Council to provide general guidance and support for our endeavors. The purpose of this letter is to invite you to become a member of that council.

The mission of the National Council is outlined in detail in the attached statement which has been developed with the approval of Admiral Zumwalt. We appreciate that you already have a very busy schedule, and therefore have so arranged the council's functions as to place an absolutely minimal demand upon your time. We envision the council's routine advice and interaction with the Center at Texas Tech being accomplished through telephone conversations with the Director of the Center, Dr. James R. Reckner.

It is hoped that members of the council might be able to meet as a body once every three years, the meetings timed to coincide with the Center's regular triennial academic conference on Vietnam. Such meetings would serve the dual purpose of giving direct advice and guidance to the Center and further offering academics in the field of Vietnam studies the opportunity to meet and interact with members of the council. The next conference is scheduled for April, 1996.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Lawless  
President

enclosure

## **National Council Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict**

1. The National Council will be formed as a part of the Advisory Board of Directors of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University [The Center].
2. The National Council will be composed of nationally prominent civilian and military leaders of the Vietnam era. When Vietnam era leaders are no longer available to serve as National Council members, other appropriate national leaders will be selected.
3. The National Council will serve to assist the Center in fulfilling its objectives. The National Council will accomplish this by:
  - \* Providing policy direction to the Center
  - \* Promoting national awareness of the Center
  - \* Enhancing the stature and reputation of the Center
  - \* Assisting the Center in securing documentary collections
  - \* Assisting the Center in encouraging public and academic research into Vietnam-related topics
  - \* Assisting the Center in securing private and public funding for acquisition of collections, scholarships and program support.
4. The National Council will consist of not less than three nor more than nine members. The President of Texas Tech University and the Chairman of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board will be permanent members of the National Council.
5. The Chairman of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board will serve as Chairman of the National Council.
6. The Vietnam Center Advisory Board will elect National Council members subject to the approval of the President of Texas Tech University.
7. The National Council will meet on an as needed basis. Informal communication between National Council members and the Director of the Center will constitute the routine method of interaction between the National Council and the Center. The National Council will meet with the Vietnam Center Advisory Board no less than triennially.
8. National Council members will serve for terms of three years and may be reelected to an unlimited number of terms by the Vietnam Center Advisory Board.
9. The composition of the National Council will be approximately equal numbers of civilian and military leaders.
10. Members of the National Council will serve without compensation. Approved, reasonable expenses incurred as a result of their service as National Council members will be reimbursed.