

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
LUBBOCK, TX 79409-1013

FAX COVER SHEET

FAX: (806) 742-1060

Date 9 November 1993

From James R. Reckner

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

Number of pages transmitted (including
cover sheet): Four

Comments: _____

Priscilla:

I hope this is helpful for the Admiral. I have had no
experience at drafting letters for others, though I am learning.

Jim

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the document(s), or do not receive
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call: (806) 742-3744.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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

November 9, 1993

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 641
Alexandria, Va. 22209

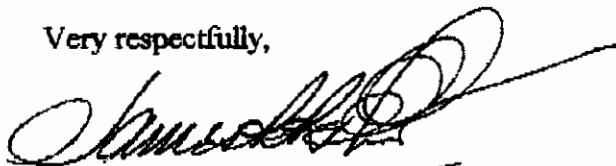
Dear Admiral:

I must confess that I hadn't given any particular thought to what you might say in the letters forwarding President Lawless's letters of invitation for the prospective members of the National Council. There are a few important points, though, that I think would be good to convey:

- * The task we are about is, quite simply, preserving the historical record of Vietnam for future generations, and encouraging younger generations to examine that record in order that they might draw their own conclusions.
- * The organization we are asking them to join, although relatively young, is dynamic. With acquisition of the Pike collection and the Colby papers, we will be well-established. But there is so very much more to do.
- * That the president of the university has agreed to authorize this new organization is indicative of institutional support for our Vietnam project at the highest level.

Attached is a rough draft of a letter you might consider for Ambassador Colby and Doug Pike. They, I suspect, will be the "easy sells." When we get a response from them, I will modify President Lawless's letters for him for subsequent "recruits," and then, if you wish, will rework a cover letter for you.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner

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Lubbock, Texas 79409-0002 (806) 742-3758
Fax: (806) 742-1920

D-R-A-F-T

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

Ambassador William E. Colby
1250 Twenty-Fourth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1124

Dear :

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's 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 donation [change to "offer to donate" for Pike] of 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 toward establishing the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict as a, possibly *the*, premier Vietnam research center for future generations.