

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

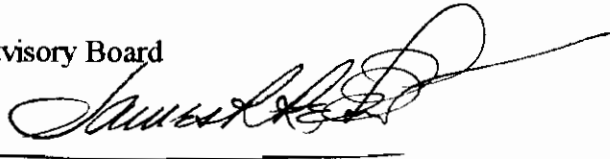
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MEMORANDUM

December 15, 1993

To: Vietnam Center Advisory Board

From: James R. Reckner



Subj: December Advisory Board Meeting

The following brief summary of developments is provided principally for those members of the Advisory Board who were unable to attend our December meeting.

1. **Pike Collection.** Since our last meeting we have made significant headway toward acquiring the Pike Collection. Vice President & Provost, Dr. Don Haragan has made available \$25,000 to cover expenses related to shipping the collection to Texas Tech, and for a research assistant to work on the collection for one year. On November 30th, David Murrah and I, in a conference call with Douglas Pike, resolved a number of issues relating to the transfer of the collection. We are now awaiting an invoice for anticipated expenses from Pike before sending him funds to make the preparations necessary to transfer the collection. Hopefully, the transfer could occur early in 1994.

The pending arrival of the collection, however, is not the end of the job for the Advisory Board. While the University has generously provided the funds to transfer the papers, and some help with initial staffing, there is still considerable need to raise funds to support staff for processing and preserving the collection. This should be one of the first priorities for our fund-raising committee.

2. **Colby Collection.** Ambassador Colby's collection has now arrived and is available for your inspection at the Archive. The collection is comprised of about 30 to 40 linear feet of books and studies relating to Vietnam. While a large portion of the collection is widely published and circulated books, an important portion of the collection is considerably more rare ephemeral documents produced in limited quantities.

3. **National Council.** Since our last meeting, President Lawless has approved the concept of the National Council, and we have begun recruiting. Thus far, President Lawless has sent out invitations: to Ambassador Colby and Douglas Pike. Colby has accepted formally, while Pike has indicated that he will accept, although to date I have not received a copy of his acceptance. In accepting his invitation, Ambassador Colby told President Lawless:

"It is most satisfying that you have decided to devote such a significant effort into this program to provide a base for serious academic review of our Vietnam experience. This period convulsed our society and made it difficult to examine the real features of the programs and projects of the time. An academic center such as your University proposes promises to produce dispassionate and objective assessments of the reality of the decisions made and the challenges posed. I would be honored to do what I can to assist this process."

Our next step is to continue recruiting. At the meeting the Board decided to seek General William Westmoreland, General Colin Powell, former South Vietnamese Ambassador Bui Diem, William Bundy and Walter Cronkite as members of the National Council. It was decided that this list would be cleared through Admiral Zumwalt and then submitted to President Lawless. At this point, the list has been sent to Admiral Zumwalt. I am currently awaiting his reply. As we begin this phase of recruiting, we must be prepared from some rejections, as these are busy individuals who have little direct knowledge of us or our efforts. Of the new list, though, I have spent some time briefing Ambassador Diem and Mr. Bundy, both of whom I met at a conference a few years ago. And we know that General Westmoreland at least knows of our existence through a discussion between him and General Brownfield.

As these new people join our organization there is an additional need: we will have to provide some sort of briefing package about the Center and Archive and also about Texas Tech. Our first two "recruits" attended our 1993 conference and therefore are intimately aware of our activities; newer members won't have the benefit of that contact.

4. Fund Raising. Major General Dudley Faver and Mr. David Starnes [Office of Institutional Advancement] gave a summary of their efforts to organize a program of fund-raising for the Center/Archive and related activities. In essence, their goal is to develop a direct mailing list of people and organizations which might be interested in our activities, and then to engage a professional direct mailing firm to conduct the operation for us. The object will be, among other things, to develop a donor base for our operations, and also to identify possible major donors. We would like everyone on the Board to provide any possible mailing lists that might assist this endeavor. David Starnes assures us that lists can be kept confidential and guarded against their sale or unauthorized reuse.

5. 1993 Conference Expenses. Don Walker provided an analysis of all expenses during our recent conference. In essence, conference expenses totalled \$14,333.25, while receipts amounted to \$8,659.00. Obviously, our receipts did not match our expenses; therefore, the donations from other individuals and organizations was particularly important to the success of the conference. Principal among those donors were:

Dr. John Buesseler
Texas Instruments
Vietnam Veterans of American
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
The Trinity Company

George S. Berry Post #575, Americal Legion
Professor William R. Braisted
Friends of the Texas Tech University Library

6. 1996 Conference. It is already time to begin planning for the 1996 conference! We have begun work on Admiral Zumwalt's suggestion that there be a panel discussion between Admiral Zumwalt and two North Vietnamese generals. I have contacted Brigadier General Harry Aderholt, USAF (Ret), who has connections with the North Vietnamese general who was in charge of the Ho Chi Minh trail. General Aderholt will be in Vietnam next month and will try to make some arrangements for us.

Otherwise, it is almost time to publish our preliminary call for papers, so that individuals can get our conference on their schedule, and also begin research/writing for the papers to be presented. We will update this topic at the next meeting of the Board.

7. Vietnam Archive. Dr. David Murrah and Mr. Bruce Cammack have advised the Board that they desire to change the name of the Vietnam Archive to "The Archive of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University." The reason for this change is to make the name of the Archive more closely match the Center's name. There being no objection on the part of the members present, the Board agreed with this change. Our letterhead will not be changed immediately; rather, we will wait until we have completed recruiting for the National Council, then consider what form the new letterhead should take.

8. Director on Leave for Spring, 1994. I will be on faculty development leave during the next semester. I will remain in Lubbock throughout the period; however, I will only rarely be in my office at the University. Therefore, anyone wishing to contact me should feel free to call me at home at any reasonable hour: I will, of course, continue to perform all duties relating to the Center throughout my period of leave.

9. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you, who have worked so hard over the past year to make our conference and the Center a success, a wonderful Christmas and the very best for all of 1994. With your continued help, the Center doubtless will reach new levels in the year ahead.

