

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

FAX COVER SHEET

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Date Tuesday, 26 October 1993

From James R. Reckner

To Fax: (703) 528 5795
Admiral Finn R. Zitzewitz, Jr.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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October 26, 1993

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret)
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 641
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

At a meeting yesterday with the director of libraries, dean of the college of arts & sciences, and others, Executive Vice President Donald Haragan agreed to recommend to President Lawless that the university acquire the Pike collection and provide an initial outlay of approximately \$25,000 for packaging and shipping the documents to Texas Tech and for initial part-time staffing by a graduate research assistant. In discussion at the meeting, Dr. Haragan mentioned that President Lawless had impressed upon him that you and I and you both were interested in seeing the collection housed at Texas Tech. I believe the warmth of President Lawless's support is an immediate result of your attention on our behalf.

At the meeting it was also agreed that once a formal document has been signed regarding the collection to Texas Tech, we will approach the Texas legislature to seek the line item budget support for the Vietnam Archive. We are in particularly strong position as the #2 and #3 men in our government are from West Texas, and one, at least is a former Marine Corps officer who is a good friend of John Lowey's. In all, yesterday's meeting signalled a significant step forward for our endeavour. I am very optimistic about our future prospects.

I have now contacted Doug Pike and requested that he send a letter indicating his intention to donate the collection so that Texas Tech can begin taking all steps necessary to receive it.

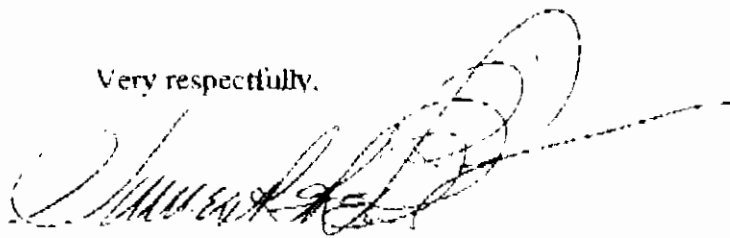
The timing of all of these developments seems most remarkable. After several years of effort, funding has now been located for a planned \$8 million building to house the university's special collections. Plans for this building include space for adequate housing for the Vietnam Archive. This building should be completed within three years. In the meantime, we are exploring options for temporary housing for the materials.

Concerning the national Council of the meeting that the President has held up action until a decision was reached on the Pike Collection. Given the results of yesterday's meeting, I am confident that the letters will be forthcoming shortly. Doug Pike has already indicated that he would be delighted to serve, so we have at least one affirmative response to begin with.

Annapolis was at its glorious best last weekend, trees in full autumn color, and weather clear and comfortable. For the first time the Naval Academy's Naval History Symposium included significant participation by officers of the former Soviet Navy, and also featured a presentation by a commander from the Polish Naval Academy which attacked the russification of the Polish Navy in the immediate post-World War II years. A heated exchange between Russians and Poles followed. Times have truly changed since the '70s when on Admiral Colbert's staff, the Soviet Navy was the focus of my attention.

Again, Admiral, permit me to thank you for your continuing support. I am certain that much of our success is directly due to your interest in and encouragement of our endeavour

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James R. Reekner", written over a horizontal dashed line.

James R. Reekner