

**CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE
VIETNAM CONFLICT**

**Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-1013
Fax: (806) 742-1060**

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: 9 May 1996
To: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Fax: (703) 528-5795
From: James R. Reckner
Subject: Vietnam Developments

P. met

Number of Pages (Including Cover Sheet): 6

If you have problems receiving this document, call: (806) 742-3744

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Box 41013 / Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013 / (806) 742-3742, 742-3744 / Fax: (806) 742-1060

9 May 1996

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 3105
Arlington, VA 22209-3901

Fax: (703) 528-5795

Dear Admiral,

Thank you for your telephone call yesterday from Dallas. I was pleased to learn that you and Mrs. Zumwalt had returned safely from your cruise.

Ambassador Colby. All of us here were stunned and saddened by the events surrounding Mr. Colby's death. The Center will be sending some formal correspondence to Mrs. Colby within the next few days. We have a board meeting scheduled for this afternoon, and will address that issue then. In the meantime, I have written a small article for the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal which, I am told, will be run on Saturday, though somewhat modified from my original by their need to reduce it by 400 words. (I always was too long-winded!)

I have searched through my files and have found two letters from Mr. Colby relating to the donation of his materials to Texas Tech. I take this opportunity to forward them to you. In one he expresses his "gratitude that they will receive a hospitable home," that they will be in "good and safe hands." In the other he expresses pleasure that they will be here in "friendly hands." Perhaps these are themes that will appeal to Mrs. Colby. I, unfortunately, have never met her.

The 1997 Conference. I deeply regret that you were unable to tour the new buildings while you were here. We ran a major tour of both the archive and the International Cultural Center on Saturday afternoon, and everyone was quite impressed. During the tour of the archive, Doug Pike offered us 10,000 volumes on Vietnam. And George Herring tells me all of the academics left "green with envy."

Will it be at all possible for you to visit with us during the 1997 meeting? If so, I am planning to open the conference on the Thursday night (17 April) with a reception and tour of the new archive building, and possibly formal opening ceremonies for the Vietnam Archive. The remainder of the conference will be conducted in the International Cultural Center, and there, too, we will have some sort of small ceremony to officially open the Vietnam Center.

The theme of the 1997 conference will be, "Teaching Vietnam." I would like to begin with a number of national figures answering the same question for the audience, from their particular perspective: "What should we teach the younger generation about Vietnam?" Who we would invite has not yet been settled. I am thinking about yourself.

VIETNAM CENTER NATIONAL COUNCIL
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (RET), Chairman
General William C. Westmoreland, Hon. William E. Colby
Hon. William P. Bundy, Hon. Bui Diem, Professor Douglas Pike

An Affirmative Action Institution

ARCHIVE OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT
Texas Tech Library
Lubbock, Texas 79409-0002 (806) 742-3758
Fax: (806) 742-1920

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.

one of the South Vietnamese prime ministers, possibly Nguyen Cao Ky this time, someone from North Vietnam (or even Colonel Bui Tin), and possibly Daniel Ellsberg to give the opposition point of view, and maybe Neil Sheehan. Do you have any suggestions for this part of the agenda?

Beyond this particular portion of the agenda, I am looking to the education specialists at a number of institutions to give me advice about how to design the remainder of the program. One thing is certain: there will be no shortage of people wishing to speak, as I have received a number of proposals already, even though I haven't yet requested any.

Douglas Pike. Doug Pike has decided that he would like to shift completely from Berkeley to Texas Tech. This will require a small amount of accommodation on our part, and I have made formal recommendations to the interim president, Dr. Donald R. Haragan. In essence, I have asked Dr. Haragan to provide interim funding for a couple of years for Douglas Pike as Associate Director of the Vietnam Center at \$40,000 per annum (plus fringe benefits) and Mrs. Pike for \$25,000 a year as editor of *Indochina Chronology*. Additionally, I have requested the following:

Appointment of Pike as an adjunct professor of history
 Provision of office space within the International Cultural Center
 Appointment of Mrs. Pike as editor of the *Indochina Chronology*
 Archival space to accommodate the remainder of Pike's Vietnam collection: several million more documents

The financial requirements are very modest. Pike isn't particularly anxious about the money, but there is a point of personal pride about working with no salary, as he currently is at Berkeley. Indeed, he has indicated that he would probably spend most of the money on the Vietnam program anyway.

This is a tremendous opportunity for Texas Tech, and I have stated this most emphatically in a memorandum to President Haragan in which I expressed my burning desire for the university to seize the opportunity. That memo has gone forward approved by the chairman of the history department and the dean of the college of arts & sciences, and I am optimistic that the president also will approve it.

H. Ross Perot. Our proposal to Mr. Perot is once again active. Jim Garrett, who is President of Methodist Hospital here in Lubbock, a Vietnam vet, and a member of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board, contacted Mr. Perot personally (he has some family connections) and Mr. Perot has now agreed to review the proposal himself. If he is favorably inclined --and I am optimistic that he will be-- then we may need to make a trip to Dallas. In view of the importance now of getting an endowment to support Doug Pike now and a successor for him in the years ahead, I believe it would be important for you to help present our case.

If we get that far, I have already advised the university that I would like to approach Mr. Perot for his own papers. Of course, the Perot papers would have to be housed in a

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.

presidential-like library building. If that building just happened to have a magnificent museum of the Vietnam War ("The Perot Museum") on the ground floor, and a wing of the upper floor reserved for the Vietnam Center and Archive, with another wing for his papers, it would be a tremendous monument to Perot --my line of argument, at any rate. And in the end, we would have the facility that the Vietnam project probably will need in twenty years' time. The project probably would run in the \$20 - \$25 million range, but would be of a scale that might attract him. (I can't believe what scavenging for money for this project is doing to me!!)

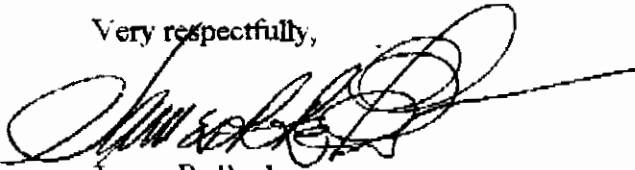
Interim President Donald R. Haragan. President Lawless accepted the presidency of a small religious college in Oklahoma a couple of months ago, and will be leaving Lubbock shortly. In the meantime, he has left the campus for all intents and purposes, and Dr. Donald R. Haragan has taken over. Dr. Haragan has been on the campus for nearly a quarter century, the most recent years as executive vice president and provost. In that position he has been a strong supporter of the Vietnam project. In many respects, he thinks more like us than most academics. I am delighted that he is interim president, and I am most hopeful that he will get the position permanently.

Dr. Haragan attended the symposium banquet, but because of my late arrival I didn't have the opportunity to introduce him to you. (I got stuck at the Holiday Inn trying to make transport arrangements when one of our chartered buses failed to arrive.) Dr. Haragan was visibly impressed by the caliber of the individuals participating in the symposium, and told a number of people about it.

About a week later I attended an ROTC function at which he was present. As I entered the room, he approached me, grabbed me by both shoulders, and began expressing his enthusiasm about the Vietnam project, shaking me in lieu of punctuation, each shake substituting for an exclamation point. "I knew I was right to support the Vietnam project right from the beginning (shake, shake)!!!. Now we have to do everything possible to ensure that the Vietnam project continues to grow (shake, shake, shake)!!!." Well, maybe that wasn't a direct quote. I would have remembered more accurately if I wasn't being shaken so much. But I left the conversation with the clear impression that the interim president very enthusiastically supported the Vietnam project (shake, shake). And an enthusiastic president can do quite a lot to make things happen.

I will keep you advised of developments on all fronts. I expect to get away for a week in the mountains of New Mexico next week. It will be the first vacation Middy and I have had for several years, and I am much looking forward to it.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner

encl: Two letters from Ambassador Colby

3028 DENT PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007
202-338-5231
FAX 202-338-5233

October 28, 1993

Dr James R. Reckner
Department of History
Texas Tech University
Lubbock TX 79409-1013


Dear Dr. Reckner:

Thank you for your Fax telling of the good news that Doug Pike's War collection will be in your good and safe hands. It is great for the documents and for your fine continuing work on this topic which has had lots of polemical attention but not enough scholarly study.

Coincidentally, the UPS has just today hauled away 16 (liquor) cases of my collection of books, papers and assorted material on Vietnam, which I had used to write LOST VICTORY. They are addressed to the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech and should be there in five days or so. Please accept them with my gratitude that they will receive a hospitable home and hopefully be of some value to your continuing efforts. I may find some more hiding on odd shelves around the house and will send them too, but I did not want further to delay this shipment.

Again, thanks for a good visit these many months ago. I hope all will go well with your continuing efforts.

Sincerely,


William E. Colby

PS i paid the shipping charges and will simply deduct them as a charitable expense on behalf of Texas Tech. If you wish to make a modest estimate of the value of the books, I can deduct that too, but don't go to any substantial effort - I doubt if they are of major value.