

# **THE VIETNAM CENTER**

**Texas Tech University                      Lubbock, TX 79409-1045**  
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## **FAX COVER SHEET**

**Date:**                      **December 9, 1998**

**To:**                         **Admiral Zumwalt, Jr.**

**Fax:**                       **(703) 528-5795**

**From:**                    **James R. Reckner**

**Subject:**                 **Letter with enclosure**

**Number of Pages (Including Cover Sheet):**   8  

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# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

## THE VIETNAM CENTER

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December 9, 1998

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

Dear Admiral:

We are going forward with our planning for the 1999 symposium, and before I circulated an early draft of paper proposals for the symposium in which I have listed you as participating, I wanted to run it past you for your approval

In essence, I have listed you to chair/participate in the panel discussion with PAVN Lieutenant General Nguyen Din Uoc, should that officer be able to participate in the symposium. I have not yet approached any senior Army officer to join you in the panel, and so seek your input on that. I have in mind to invite General William B. Rosson, who is a very thoughtful and insightful person, and who, I am certain would do an excellent job. He also has kept in touch with the Vietnam Center over several years and has provided me with some excellent advice on various matters.

Alternatively, if you consider having two four-stars more-or-less confronting a three-star, we might consider inviting someone like Lieutenant General Dave R. Palmer. General Palmer's connection with General Westmoreland, who also should be present at the symposium, might be an added inducement for him to participate. In this scenario, we would then have two Army officers of equal rank to discuss the issue, with you chairing and also putting in your own interpretation.

I have not invited any senior ARVN officers to participate in the panel. To do so, I am certain, would ensure that General Uoc would find it impossible to take part. If any ARVN general officers appear --and I suspect some will-- we can permit them to speak from the audience. In that manner, they will be able to express themselves without undermining the principal goal, which is to begin a dialog between American and PAVN military officers.

Regarding the rest of the papers listing, I have tentatively included your son Jim in the second Cambodian panel, hoping he would speak about the 1998 elections which he observed. I e-mailed him about this just before he left for Vietnam, but got no response. Hopefully he will feel comfortable with this. General Maxis is arranging the panel, though so far I have put two of the three speakers there.

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

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THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE  
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We have signed the contract for the visit of the Moving Vietnam Wall. Though we have not set up the full agenda for this, I anticipate that we will have the formal opening ceremonies for the Wall visit on Wednesday, 14 April 1999 at 1700. As you have already agreed to be the keynote speaker at this event, I respectfully request that you arrange your travel schedule to arrive in Lubbock early enough for this event.

While discussing travel arrangements, when last you were here, you asked me to remind you that you wanted to stay in Lubbock through Saturday 17 April, in order to participate in the evening of entertainment at the V-8 Ranch, outside of town. [This note principally for Priscilla, I suspect.]

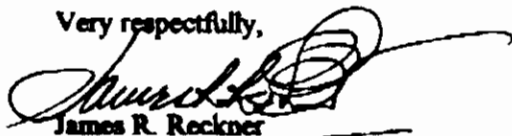
My latest information concerning General Westmoreland comes from one of his former aides, Colonel Paul Miles. Colonel Miles reports that both the General & Mrs. Westmoreland are committed to donating his memorabilia to Texas Tech University. [I have consistently emphasized that while we are interested in receiving this material, we can only accept it if they are happy to donate it. I do not want, in any way, to convey anything unseemly in our efforts to acquire the materials. I understand from other sources that there have been some unscrupulous efforts to gain possession of them.]

Since typing this letter yesterday, I have received a call from Colonel Donlon, saying that Mrs. Westmoreland says she has been waiting for me to arrive in Charleston to inventory the General's materials and prepare them for shipping to Lubbock! As Colonel Miles reported that the General's eldest son, "Rip" was to visit with his parents over the Christmas break and review the materials before they would be ready for shipment, I am now sufficiently confused about what is desired that I will be writing directly to her to ask what she actually wishes done.

Further, according to Colonel Donlon, Mrs. Westmoreland still has our symposium penciled into the General's agenda and, health permitting, they will be here, traveling with the Donlons. Respecting Kitsy's wishes, we will not arrange any situation in which the General will be required to speak formally; however, I hope to have either the General or Kitsy announce the donation of their materials, preferably at the fund-raising dinner on the evening of April 14, at which Chancellor Montford will unveil plans for the new building.

All else continues well here, though I seem to be working at an ever-increasing pace, just to maintain my current position. [Doubtless you know that feeling on a far greater scale from many of the high positions you occupied over the years.] Chancellor Montford is in New York today, originally planning to meet with Bill Simon; however, the Vice Chancellor for fund raising called me late yesterday to report that the visit had been cancelled at the last minute by Mr. Simon, who had to be out of town, and thus the meeting will have to be rescheduled.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner

*encl: paper proposals*

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**Third Triennial Vietnam Symposium (15-17 April 1999)**  
**Paper Proposals**  
**(Listing Does Not Reflect Sequence of Presentation)**

**Differing Perceptions of the War**

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.  
 PAVN Lieutenant General Nguyen Dinh Uoc  
 US Army General Officer ???

**Archives**

**Panel 1**

Swift, Jeannine, and others. National Archives Staff. Panel on Vietnam Project at NARA

1. Brief History of the Vietnam Project at the National Archives
2. Brief Description of the National Archives' Holdings
3. Some Unusual or Underused Records
4. How Do Researchers Communicate with the National Archives

**Panel 2**

Dr. Arthur J. Dommen, George Mason University, "Searching for Vietnam History Through the US National Archives."

Steven Denny, UC Berkeley, "Watching Hanoi: The Changing Conditions for Following Contemporary Developments in Vietnam"

**Early Vietnam War Battles**

Chair/Commentator: Colonel Roger Donlon, USA (Ret), M.H.

Toczek, Maj. Dave. US Military Academy "The Battle of Ap Bac, Vietnam, 1963."

Anne Blair, Australian National University, Battle of Nam Dong, 1964

Logevall, Fred. UC-Santa Barbara. One of a possible menu of four papers, to tie in with Dr. Anne Blair's proposed paper on the Battle of Nam Dong, 1964.

1. "An Inevitable War? The Domestic American and International Context, 1964-65"
2. "Window of Opportunity: Lyndon Johnson and Disengagement from Vietnam, November 1964 - February 1965"
3. "Coercive Diplomacy: The U.S. and the Seaborn Mission to Hanoi, June 1964"
4. "'More Flags': The American Attempt to Get Third Country Assistance in Vietnam."

**Laos**

**Panel 1**

Chair/Commentator: William Head, Warner-Robins ALC

John Prados, Independent Scholar. "Aspects of the War in Laos

Earl H. Tilford, US Army War College. "Operation Commando Hunt: The Air War against the Ho Chi Minh Trail"

Dr. Tim Castle, Air Command & Staff College. "Bombing Through the Clouds: The Establishment and Operation of Site 85."

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## **Panel 2: The Secret War in Laos**

Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt

Ted Shakley

Arthur Dommert?

Richard Verrone, Texas Tech, "The 1962 Geneva Accords on Laos and Debunking the 'Cold War Rhetoric'."

## **Cambodia**

### **Panel 1: US Military Support for the Lon Nol Government**

Brigadier General (ret) Theo C. Mataxis, USA, American Military University, title not yet available

Major General Ken Bowra, USA, title not yet available

Major General (ret) John Cleland, USA, title not yet available

### **Panel 2: Peace Operations in Cambodia**

Currently being formed by Brigadier General Mataxis

Gregory A. Olson, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. "Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Senator Mike Mansfield: The Nixon Administration's Missed Opportunity to Avoid the Killing Fields."

James G. Zumwalt, paper on 1998 elections in Cambodia?

## **End of the War in Vietnam**

James Parker, Independent scholar. "The Evacuation from South Vietnam, 1975."

Dr. James Willbanks, Army Command & General Staff College. "The Fall of South Vietnam."

## **Anti-War Topics**

### **The Vietnam War on Campus: Other Voices, More Distant Drums**

Chair/Commentator: Marc J. Gilbert, North Georgia College & State University

Paul Lyons, Stockton State University, "The Sounds of Silence: Silent Boomers in an Age of Protest."

Anthony O. Edmonds, Ball State University, "The Anti-War Movement at Ball State University."

Marc Jason Gilbert, North Georgia College & State University, "Lock and Load Revisited: Protest, Memory and the Internet"

Barbara Tischler, Horace Mann School, "Refiner's Fired: Women and the Anti-War Movement on Campus."

## **The Viet Kieu Experience**

Jeffrey Brody, California State University, Fullerton, "The Reporter from Little Saigon."

Major Quang X. Pham, USMCR, Untitled paper on his personal experiences.

Andrew Lam, Pacific News Service, Untitled paper on his personal experiences.

Henry Nguyen, Texas Tech University, Untitled paper on his personal experiences.

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### **The Vietnamese Revolution: Retrospect and Prospect**

**Chair:** Nguyen Manh Hung, George Mason University

**Do Quy Toan,** *The Ky 21 (21st Century) Magazine, Westminster, CA, "Civic Culture in Vietnam's Tradition"*

**Nguyen Manh Hung,** George Mason University, "Debates on the Nature and Direction of the Vietnamese Revolution,"

**Le Van Tien,** Westminster, CA, "From the Second to the Eighth Party Congress: Comparison of Two Generations of Communist Leadership."

**Discussant:** Douglas Pike, Texas Tech University

### **Vietnam Art and Photography**

**Joan Seeman Robinson,** "Fire and Light: An Anti-war Mural at Syracuse University

**Ted Engelmann,** Photographic essay, Vietnam 1999

### **Teaching the Vietnam War**

**Joe Dunn,** Converse College. "Day One of a Vietnam War Course."

### **Naval Topics**

**William A. Mitchell,** David Sarabia, Daniel Faraci, James Kurtz, Baylor University. "The Combined American, Republic of Vietnam, and Khmer Republic Effort to Protect Vital Transnational Mekong River Convoys in 1971."

**Les Cullen,** Texas Tech University, "'A Damascus Road Experience': Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., and ACTOV's Human Dimension."

### **Vietnam Strategy**

**Maj. Gen. Edward B. Atkeson,** Institute of Land Warfare, AUSA. "Vietnam War Strategy: A Prosecutor's Brief." (Deals with March 1965 Commander's Estimate of the Situation)

**Nguyen Hong Thach,** SRV Foreign Ministry, currently studying at Australian Armed Forces Defence Academy, "Vietnam between China and the United States, 1950-1995." (Depends upon Vietnam Center financing to attend)

**Samuel B. Hoff,** Delaware State University. "Colby versus McNamara: Vietnam Performance and Postscript."

### **Currently Not Assigned to a Panel:**

**Sankar Chatterjee,** Untitled paper on geology of Vietnam and formation of oil fields

**David Morokoff,** Texas Tech University, "The Media's Coverage of the Vietnam War

**Gary D. Solla,** US Military Academy. "General Courts-Martial in Vietnam: Heavy Handed or Sentencing Sweethearts?"

**Darrel Whitcomb,** Independent Scholar: Untitled paper on SAR: Rescue of BAT 21 BRAVO.

**Lt. Gen. c(ret) John Cushman,** USA Paper/Presentation for Luncheon?

**Brigadier General (ret) George Gaspard,** USA Presentation (with slides) on Vietnam experiences, including FULRO uprising