

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

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**FAX COVER SHEET**

**Date: 23 July 1995**

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

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

**From: James R. Reckner**

**Subject: 1996 Vietnam Symposium**

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

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# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

## CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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23 July 1995

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

Fax: (703) 528-5795

Dear Admiral:

### 1996 Vietnam Symposium

Within the last few days I have authorized Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt to invite Major General Vang Pao and Colonel Ly Tou Pao, the former Hmong military leaders, to attend the symposium and for General Vang Pao to speak at the Thursday luncheon.

Dr. Hamilton-Merritt has also suggested that we might invite President Thieu and Air Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky. While I have absolutely no objection to inviting either or both of them, I am concerned that if we invite too many former senior South Vietnamese officials, the chances of General Giap or General Tran Van Tra actually participating might be significantly reduced. Although I made it a point at Denver that the Hanoi Vietnamese must be prepared to confront opposing viewpoints, I don't want to appear as though we are lining up the entire former South Vietnamese government to confront them. I would very much appreciate your views on this. / ope

### 1997 Vietnam Workshop

The Chief Historian at the Center for Military History has recommended to General Mountcastle that they get on board for the proposed workshop. If they do decide to go along with us, then we should have the entire program outlined and ready to present to the Vietnamese when they arrive here next April. Usually, it seems to me, the Vietnamese arrive at a meeting with their agenda all ironed out and agreed to, and then confront the Americans, who generally lack an agreed position. (That certainly was the case in Denver in June). This time, I would very much like us to be the ones with everything fully staffed and organized. It's just much more professional that way.

### Developments at the Center

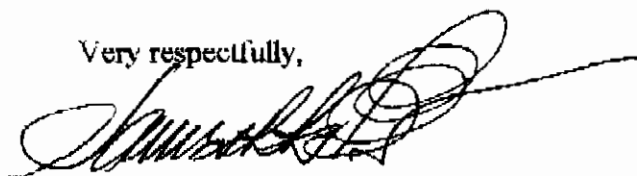
There have been some heartening developments within the last week or so indicating that an increasing number of people within the university organization are beginning to more actively support the Vietnam program.

The Director of Special Collections announced that the Library plans to allocate an additional \$10,000 from their resources to begin acquiring a set of published works on Vietnam (separate from the library's holdings available for student check-out) for preservation as part of the Archive.

The Office of Development has determined that they would like to find a major corporate sponsor for the symposium. Although we already have a tidy sum set aside for the symposium, if they can raise the money through a sponsor, then the money we have already allocated can be shifted to acquisitions for the Archive.

A senior faculty member advises me that President Lawless now speaks boastingly about the Vietnam Center whenever he speaks publicly off-campus about university programs. This is particularly gratifying, as it signifies our growing institutional strength within the university. We are top priority for new funding in the university; that in itself is a remarkable achievement given the total lack of priority for Vietnam studies virtually everywhere else in the United States.

Very respectfully,



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James R. Reckner  
Director