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FAX COVER SHEET

Date: 26 June 1995

**To: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Fax: (703) 528-5795**

From: James R. Reckner

Subject: Visit of General Giap

Number of Pages (Including Cover Sheet): Three

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June 26, 1995

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

Dear Admiral:

I have just returned from a very interesting week of discussions with the visiting Vietnamese delegation. I will send a copy of my full report via mail, but wanted particularly to call to your attention the discussions I had regarding the possible visit of General Giap.

Vietnamese Dialogue

The Vietnamese delegation was already aware of the letter that you had delivered during your visit to Hanoi last September. Vu Xuan Hong, the Secretary General of the Vietnam-USA Society, indicated that the General's participation is still being discussed within the Vietnam Veterans Organization.

In the political commission's discussions, which I co-chaired with Ambassador Nguyen Quang Tao, one of the Vietnamese delegates raised objections to Vietnamese participation in the 1996 conference because Mr. Colby and Bui Diem will be there. I argued strongly, and was supported by other American members of the commission, that if the Vietnamese wish to enter into meaningful dialogue, they must be prepared to interact with those whose views they don't share; that they must be able to deal with opposing views. I believe this view was understood by those present; however, I suspect that particular concern is part of the ongoing discussion about whether General Giap should attend. Nevertheless, the political commission's final report included a recommendation that the SRV take an active role in a wide range of academic conferences, *and specifically mentioned our 1996 symposium.*

Toward the end of the week, Ambassador Tao asked me to also invite General Tran Van Tra and General Tran Van Duong. General Duong is the current head of the Vietnamese Veterans Organization. He said the invitations would be useful if it turns out that General Giap is busy at the time of the conference. Of course, whether he might be "busy" as a result of political considerations rather than actual calendar commitments remains to be seen.