

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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June 5, 1995

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

Dear Admiral:

Vietnam Center has received state funding. For the first time in quite some time, I have good news to report concerning the Vietnam Center. At their recently completed session, the Texas legislature approved a line item in the state budget for the Center. The amount authorized is considerably less than what we requested; nevertheless, it is still a handsome sum, and will do much to keep us going for the next two years. We will receive \$111,250 each year for fiscal years 1996 and 1997.

While we don't yet have formal agreement, I have suggested that the appropriation be divided evenly between the Vietnam Center and Vietnam Archive. This would provide the Center \$55,625 for each of the two years, and would ensure that our symposium in 1996 would be funded. Of course, it would be infinitely better if Secretary McNamara agrees to fund the conference, in order that we might put this money to other uses.

Our success in this line item, I am absolutely convinced, is due in very large measure to Phil Price's efforts to convince key legislators to support us. As a state employee, I am forbidden to lobby on behalf of any legislation relating to my work. Phil, of course, had no such restrictions, and also knows well and intimately most of the key people in Austin.

"Release Time" for Vietnam Center Director. I am particularly interested to use about \$12,000 of the appropriation to "purchase" a one-third reduction of my teaching load, in order to be able to devote more time to the Center. The recently completed semester simply proved too taxing. I taught nearly 400 undergraduate students, and guided twelve graduate students while at the same time taking care of the affairs of the Center and organizing and hosting the Vietnam Roundtable. I made it to the end of the semester, but at the cost of a mild case of prostatitis which the doctor says was stress related, and also a hiatal hernia which has caused me to "lay back on the oars" for the last two weeks or so. That is now pretty much under control, but it served as a warning to me that I have to bring my duties more in line with my physical capabilities. The university administration is in agreement, and thus I will have a one-course reduction for the fall semester, and will be required to teach only one course in Spring, 1996. This arrangement will give me almost full-time to devote to arrangements for the 1996 symposium, which I plan to have very thoroughly organized.

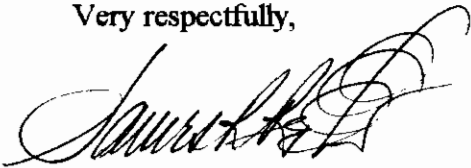
Visiting Vietnamese Delegation. You most probably are aware of the Vietnamese delegation visiting the United States June 14 - June 30 of this year. Among the delegation is a staff officer of the PAVN General Staff, Luc Dinh Bon. I have been invited to spend the week of June 18 with them during their visit to Denver, and have agreed to do so, hoping that such contacts might lead to future participation of Vietnamese academics in our conference program, and possibly that there might be some exchange of academics between Texas Tech and Vietnam, particularly after the arrival of our new Vietnam scholar, Dr. Patricia Pelley, later this summer. I enclose with this letter a copy of the relevant correspondence.

Proceedings of Vietnam Roundtable. I am still awaiting receipt of copies of a few of the papers presented at the roundtable before sending them off to Texas Tech University Press. One of my priority projects for the next week is to light a fire under a few of the slower contributors.

Approach to Mr. Perot. We thought we had everything lined up for the meeting between General Westmoreland and Mr. Perot for early May, but then the Perots (Ross and sister Bette, who runs to Perot Foundation) were both called to Washington to participate in the President's Commission on Terrorism, and everything fell through. We are now awaiting their return to Dallas to try to make new arrangements. I believe they are strongly inclined to provide financial support, but the trick is getting everyone together at the same time and the same place. I am very hopeful that we will eventually receive some major funding from this source; nevertheless, I have asked the fund raisers to begin exploring other possible sources.

I have in mind, particularly, President Bush's Ambassador to Austria, Roy M. Huffington. Ambassador Huffington is fairly well placed, financially. He recently sold eleven square blocks of downtown Houston, and is estimated to be worth nearly \$1 billion. His early income derived from oil exploration in Southeast Asia, and he has a continuing interest in Americans learning about Southeast Asia; therefore, he seems a "natural" for an approach. I have invited him to attend the 1996 Vietnam symposium.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner