

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

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

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: 21 September 1994

To: Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Fax: (703) 528-5795

From: James R. Reckner

Subject: 1996 Vietnam Symposium

Number of Pages (Including Cover Sheet): Two

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Dear Admiral:

I hope your trip to Vietnam went well. We received some press coverage of it locally, copies of which I will forward. I look forward to hearing about your visit with General Giap and his response to President Lawless's invitation.

Concerning the 1996 Vietnam Symposium, could you please send a fax accepting our invitation to participate? I am requesting funding from the NEH, and they require letters of acceptance from speakers in the formal proposal. As my submission date is 1 October and the proposal will take a few days to work its way through the local bureaucracy, I request a response as soon as convenient for you.

Also, I forward for your information General Westmoreland's most recent response to our requests.

Very respectfully,


James R. Reckner

William Childs Westmoreland
General, United States Army, Retired
Box 1059
Charleston, South Carolina 29402

September 14, 1994

Dear Doctor Reckner:

Your letters of August 15 and 18 have been received.

Reference your letter of August 15: The cooperation and contributions to your archives are impressive and your projected 1996 Symposium will be timely. Indeed, I applaud the participation by General Phil Davidson, who is one of the best informed military officers on Vietnam. I regret that I can not be present to participate in the program. (I will then be 82 years old.)

Reference your letter of August 18: I have met Mr. Perot only on one occasion, and thus do not believe it important that I accompany President Lawless when he calls upon him.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


W. C. WESTMORELAND

James R. Reckner
Director, Center for the Study
of the Vietnam Conflict
Texas Tech University
Box 41013
Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013

JUL 26 1994

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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

*per Jim Reckner's
call 7-22-94
hold - he may
change dates*

July 21, 1994

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 641
Alexandria, VA 22209

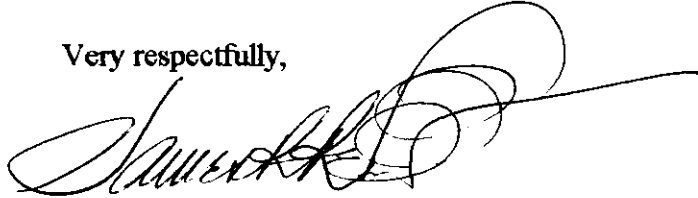
Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

The purpose of this letter is to request that you issue letters of invitation to the various speakers for the proposed Vietnam Roundtable for 1995. Draft letters are enclosed. Most of the people on the list have agreed, informally, to participate, but we need to nail each one down to a very specific commitment. For each of the presenters we are willing to offer \$500 to assist them with transportation and accommodation. The one exception is Colonel Summers, who will only come if his wife is included; therefore, we are offering to cover travel and accommodation for both of them. I have also worded his letter a bit more forcefully than the others, as I understand he has a record of initially agreeing to appear, but then withdrawing at very short notice. As this roundtable revolves around his writing, and, essentially is in recognition of his work, the ultimate success of the endeavor depends to some extent upon his presence.

I have added two luncheon speakers to the agenda: Douglas Pike and General Nguyen Khanh. I want Doug to speak about recent developments in Vietnam, and will leave the slate open for General Khanh to speak on a topic of his choosing. I have not yet received any indication from them, or from Lieutenant General Davidson, that they will accept. *I will submit them two more next week or perhaps a bit later.*

A copy of the Roundtable Agenda as it now stands is attached.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner

encl: Vietnam Roundtable Agenda
Draft letters of invitation

D-R-A-F-T

July 25, 1994

Colonel Harry Summers

Dear Colonel Summers:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to attend the joint Army War College - Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict Vietnam Roundtable scheduled to take place at Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, Texas, 13-14 April 1995. Timed as an event to mark the twentieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon, this roundtable, as Dr. Earl H. Tilford of the Army War College has already advised you, will focus on a re-examination of your watershed work, *On Strategy*, and is intended largely as a tribute to your work.

In order to defray the expense of your participation, the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict will reimburse you for travel and accommodations for you and your wife to travel to Lubbock and to participate in the roundtable.

We anticipate that yours will be the first presentation of the meeting. We have tentatively entitled that presentation "Colonel Harry Summers on the Summers Thesis," but, of course, will alter that topic to meet your wishes. Being focused as it is upon your work, the success of the proposed Vietnam Roundtable depends to a considerable extent upon your active participation. Therefore, the roundtable planners are most anxious to receive a firm commitment from you for this event.

You may wish to communicate directly with the Director of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University. He is responsible for all roundtable arrangements at this point. He is:

Dr. James R. Reckner
Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict
Texas Tech University
Box 41013
Lubbock, TX 79409-1013
Phone: (806) 792-3441; Fax: (806) 792-1060

Hoping this invitation will be favorably received, I remain,

Very sincerely,

D - R - A - F - T

July 25, 1994

Dr. Larry E. Cable
Department of History
University of North Carolina
601 South College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403

Dear Professor Cable:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to attend the joint Army War College - Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict Vietnam Roundtable scheduled to take place at Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, Texas, 13-14 April 1995. Timed as an event to mark the twentieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon, this roundtable, as Dr. Earl H. Tilford of the Army War College has already advised you, will focus on a re-examination of Harry Summers' thesis, as outlined in his work, *On Strategy*.

We anticipate that your presentation will immediately follow Colonel Summers'. We have tentatively entitled your presentation, "The Summers Thesis in Strategic Context," but, of course, will alter it to suit your requirements.

In order to defray the expense of your participation, the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict will provide an honorarium of \$500.00.

You may wish to communicate directly with the Director of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University. He is responsible for all roundtable arrangements at this point. He is:

Dr. James R. Reckner
Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict
Box 41013
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-1013
Phone: (806) 792-3441; Fax: (806) 742-1060.

Hoping this invitation will be favorably received, I remain

Very sincerely,

D - R - A - F - T

July 25, 1994

Dr. George Herring
Department of History
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0027

Dear Professor Herring:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to attend the joint Army War College - Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict Vietnam Roundtable scheduled to take place at Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, Texas, 13-14 April 1995. Timed as an event to mark the twentieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon, this roundtable, as Dr. Earl H. Tilford of the Army War College has already advised you, will focus on a re-examination of Harry Summers' thesis, as outlined in his work, *On Strategy*.

We have tentatively entitled your presentation, "The Vietnam War in Strategic Context: A Western Perspective," but, of course, will alter it to suit your requirements.

In order to defray the expense of your participation, the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict will provide an honorarium of \$500.00.

You may wish to communicate directly with the Director of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University. He is responsible for all roundtable arrangements at this point. He is:

Dr. James R. Reckner
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Box 41013
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Lubbock, TX 79409-1013
Phone: (806) 792-3441; Fax: (806) 742-1060.

Hoping this invitation will be favorably received, I remain

Very sincerely,

D - R - A - F - T

July 25, 1994

Dr. Marc J. Gilbert
Department of History
North Georgia College
Dahlonega, GA 30597

Dear Professor Gilbert:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to attend the joint Army War College - Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict Vietnam Roundtable scheduled to take place at Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, Texas, 13-14 April 1995. Timed as an event to mark the twentieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon, this roundtable, as Dr. Earl H. Tilford of the Army War College has already advised you, will focus on a re-examination of Harry Summers' thesis, as outlined in his work, *On Strategy*.

We have tentatively entitled your presentation, "The Summers Thesis and the Academic Left," but, of course, will alter it to suit your requirements.

In order to defray the expense of your participation, the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict will provide an honorarium of \$500.00.

You may wish to communicate directly with the Director of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University. He is responsible for all roundtable arrangements at this point. He is:

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Hoping this invitation will be favorably received, I remain

Very sincerely,

D - R - A - F - T

July 25, 1994

Lieutenant General Philip B. Davidson

Dear General Davidson:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to attend the joint Army War College - Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict Vietnam Roundtable scheduled to take place at Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, Texas, 13-14 April 1995. Timed as an event to mark the twentieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon, this roundtable, as Dr. Reckner has already advised you, will focus on a re-examination of Harry Summers' thesis, as outlined in his work, *On Strategy*.

We have tentatively entitled your presentation, "The Vietnam War: A General Officer's View," but, of course, will alter it to suit your requirements.

In order to defray the expense of your participation, the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict will provide an honorarium of \$500.00.

You may wish to communicate directly with the Director of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University. He is responsible for all roundtable arrangements at this point. He is:

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Box 41013
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Hoping this invitation will be favorably received, I remain

Very sincerely,

D - R - A - F - T

July 25, 1994

Dr. Xiaoming Zhang
Department of History
Box 41013
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-1013

Dear Professor Zhang:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to attend the joint Army War College - Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict Vietnam Roundtable scheduled to take place at Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, Texas, 13-14 April 1995. Timed as an event to mark the twentieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon, this roundtable, as Dr. Reckner has already advised you, will focus on a re-examination of Harry Summers' thesis, as outlined in his work, *On Strategy*.

We have tentatively entitled your presentation, "The Vietnam War in Strategic Context: An Asian Perspective" but, of course, will alter it to suit your requirements.

You may wish to communicate directly with the Director of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict, Dr. James R. Reckner. He is responsible for all roundtable arrangements at this point.

Hoping this invitation will be favorably received, I remain

Very sincerely,