

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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

MEMORANDUM

August 1, 1994

To: Dr. Jane Winer, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Allan J. Kuethe, Chairman, History Department
Dr. E. Dale Cluff, Director of Libraries
Dr. David Murrah, Director of Special Collections

From: James R. Reckner

Subj: Douglas Pike and His Collection

Pike Collection

As of Friday, July 29, Douglas Pike reported that he had prepared 533 boxes of archival material for shipment to Texas Tech. He anticipates that the entire shipment will be approximately 550 boxes. After discussion with Dr. Murrah, we have tentatively decided that this amount of material might well fit into a large rental truck, and that it might be considerably more economic for us to proceed in that manner.

Pike has advised against palletizing and shrink wrapping the materials, and has indicated that there is no secure storage place near the building's loading dock. Therefore, the materials will have to be loaded on elevators, taken to the ground floor and then loaded onto the truck. As commercial truckers are reluctant to spend the time that such loading probably will take, the rental truck option might offer the opportunity for careful loading without undue haste. Whatever course is finally settled upon, it is apparent that the collection is now nearly ready for shipment, and that some action should be taken soon.

Douglas Pike and Remainder of Pike Collection

In a related development, it seems that the University of California is finally taking note of their exceptional loss, and is attempting to avoid the complete loss of Pike and his contemporary Indochina documents. (This latter collection probably comprises something around 750 or 800 boxes of material.)

I have been for some time attempting to convince Pike that he should pack up the rest of his Vietnam collection, and move it, and himself, to Texas Tech. As of July 26, Pike responded that at this point he agrees in principle to move to Texas Tech in Fall of 1995. But he added: "Can't say more than that at the moment because officials here

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for your info.
JR*

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VIETNAM CENTER NATIONAL COUNCIL
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ARCHIVE OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT
Texas Tech Library
Lubbock, Texas 79409-0002 (806) 742-3758
Fax: (806) 742-1920

Douglas Pike and Pike Collection

assure me that something will turn up in the next few months that will revive the Indochina Studies Program (i.e., the teaching program). I must give them the benefit of the doubt." (See attached fax.)

In connection with Pike's possible move to Texas Tech, Dr. Kuethe has suggested that it should not be difficult to get an adjunct position for Pike, and office space. Dr. Murrah has indicated that the space in the new archive building initially allocated to the Turkish Oral Archives might be made available for Pike's use. Can the university make any specific commitment to Pike? I don't believe money is his great concern, nor does he strongly desire to teach. But I feel certain that he would like a position that gives him some connection with the university, and probably some support for research- or conference-related travel.

The benefits of attracting Pike and the remainder of his collection to Texas Tech, I believe, would be numerous:

a. Pike has tremendous standing and prestige throughout the academic community in all matters relating to Vietnam and Indochina. He is the "grand old man" of the field. His decision to relocate here would quite naturally attach a measure of that prestige to our undertaking.

b. Having Douglas Pike permanently available to act as mentor for some of the graduate students working on Vietnam theses and dissertation would be a resource the value of which would be difficult to calculate. Having devoted his entire life to this topic, he is a walking encyclopedia; he could provide Texas Tech students with an unparalleled depth of insight and thus offer important direction for their studies. In this Texas Tech would be a tremendous beneficiary. This Fall there will be, I believe, five masters students working toward theses related to Vietnam, and one or two doctoral students working toward dissertations in the field.

c. Pike's presence, too, will encourage all Vietnam scholars to touch base with Texas Tech in the course of their research. In this sense, his presence will accelerate the process of developing Texas Tech as the "central point" for Vietnam research.

What, Specifically, Would Pike Want?

He has indicated that his main desire is to continue his research, that he did not want to be "put out to pasture." Indeed, there is no sign of any diminished intellectual or physical aspect that would dictate his withdrawal from academic activity. I think he very much wants to continue to be a part of an active organization pursuing research related to Vietnam. He has indicated, too, a great concern that his scholarly quarterly, *Indochina Chronology*, be continued.

Can Texas Tech Offer Douglas Pike an Attractive Package?

With the above considerations in mind, would it be possible to develop some firm package to offer him? I would suggest that, if possible, it include as a minimum, the following:

a. **An Adjunct Appointment:** a position and title that will connect him with the university. Again, I do not believe wages are an issue here so much as the title and active connection, although I feel certain he would accept payment if offered. Personally, I would very much like to see him paid, although achieving that might be one of the goals of our fund-raising effort.

b. **Appropriate Space.** I believe he would be more than delighted if Dr. Murrah's generous offer for space in the new archive building was formally extended. Alternatively, he might be offered some of the space allocated to the Vietnam Center in the new International Cultural Center, though I suspect he would be happier close to his papers.

c. **Publication of *Indochina Chronology*.** I have included \$3,000 in the proposed line item for the state budget for contemporary periodicals which will be necessary to continue collection of materials for Contemporary Indochina Studies and to compile information for the *Indochina Chronology*. I have also requested funding for one research assistant to work on this task, presumably with Professor Pike. Can we make a commitment to Pike to continue this work, contingent upon approval of the line item?

d. **Travel funds for research and conferences.** I have allocated \$5,000 *per annum* in the proposed state budget for travel funds. I have no particularly great desire to travel personally, but added this sum in recognition of the fact that as our interests grow, it will become increasingly important to be represented at a number of conferences annually, and also to conduct business related to the Center. If this funding is approved, I would be very happy if Professor Pike would attend a number of these conferences to represent Texas Tech and the Vietnam Center. In this manner, I believe, Pike will significantly increase Texas Tech's profile and prestige in the field, and I will suffer fewer distractions from my teaching. As for travel to Vietnam, of course, Pike will have to continue to seek outside funds. Even should we desire to support such travel, Texas state regulations would prohibit it.