



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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July 25, 1994

Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore
P.O. Box 118
Crested Butte, CO 81224

Dear General Moore:

Thank you for your letter of 22 July, which reached me this morning. I tried to call you twice this morning, both times your line was busy; I then tried to call in the afternoon and you were out, so I am resorting to a letter.

Preservation of Collections at Texas Tech University. In response to your query concerning policies, etc., for collections such as yours, the following is the situation at Texas Tech.

a. The University has made what they call a "longer-than-lifetime" commitment to house and preserve all materials that we acquire. Temporarily, this is being done in the special collections section of the main library building, but when the new \$8.8 million archive building is completed at the end of 1995, these collections will be maintained in humidity- and temperature-controlled spaces, in acid-free folders.

b. Concerning security, all archival materials will be maintained in areas not open to the general public. Researchers will request materials; these materials will be delivered to a central reading room in the Archive building, from which no materials can be removed. All photocopying will be done by the archive staff, and all photocopies will be made on specially colored papers, to limit the possibility of researchers removing original documents.

c. Should any materials you wish to donate be of a personal nature, or should you wish to impose restrictions on their use (for example, not to be open to researchers for 20 years [or any other period]), the archive will accommodate such restrictions.

d. Preservation. The university has received a \$97,000 grant to establish a "state-of-the-art" conservation facility in the new archive building. All donated archival materials will be processed through this facility, and receive whatever attention is necessary.

e. Publicity. All collections donated to the Archive of the Vietnam Conflict are catalogued and listed on an international library database. Researchers will then know that the material is available here. If they wish to use the materials, though, they must come to the Archive. Archival materials are not loaned.

VIETNAM CENTER NATIONAL COUNCIL
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (RET), Chairman
General William C. Westmoreland, Hon. William E. Colby
Hon. William P. Bundy, Hon. Bui Diem, Professor Douglas Pike

An Affirmative Action Institution

ARCHIVE OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT
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I am not certain what other information you might wish concerning our archival project here. We, of course, would be honored and delighted to receive your papers, to house and preserve them for future generations of researchers. I have outlined my vision for this project in an article published earlier this year in the *Houston Chronicle*. I will enclose a copy of that article with this letter.

Pike Collection. The current status is that the collection is now being packaged for shipment, and we expect to receive it here in August or early September. It will be housed temporarily in the special collections section of the university library until our new archive building is completed toward the end of next year.

We would very much like to convince Doug Pike to come to Texas Tech with his collections. I have made a very strong argument with him about that, and Admiral Zumwalt wrote to him urging him to seriously consider the proposition. The university will offer him an adjunct professorship, office space in the history department, the archive, or the international cultural center, and I am certain I will be able to find some funding to support his continuing research. Our strongest selling point, I think, is that we are vitally interested in the field that has been his life's work, and we would be honored to have him here. Of course, the older we get the more difficult it is to completely disrupt your life and move to somewhere entirely new. So, at this point I await his decision on that.

State Budget. Completion of the negotiations surrounding transfer of the Pike Collection apparently stirred the senior leadership of the university to take the Vietnam Center much more seriously. Within the last month I was directed to prepare a special line item proposal for the State of Texas budget for the biennium beginning in 1996. I requested \$461,000 for 1996 and nearly \$200,000 for each successive year. I understand this has now been agreed to in the university and that the president of the university has agreed to lobby on our behalf. So, I am guardedly optimistic that we shall finally receive some funding. About \$220,000 of the first year's funds are earmarked to complete our collection of microfilms of Vietnam documents, and also to acquire a complete set of maps of Vietnam. A good portion of the remainder will fund archivists to process and preserve the Pike collection and other materials that we are receiving.

At the same time, the university is attempting to purchase copies of everything published relating to Vietnam, and is now seeking copies of earlier works that were not acquired in the years before the Vietnam Center was established. Our state budget request includes \$20,000 annually for acquisition of books and dissertations, and an additional \$3,000 for acquisition of periodicals relating to contemporary Indochina.

Vietnam Roundtable 1995. We will be cohosting with the Army War College a two-day Vietnam Roundtable at Texas Tech in April 1995. The main function of the Roundtable, scheduled to mark, more or less, the twentieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon, will be a re-examination of Harry Summers' thesis. Speakers will include Colonel Summers, Dr. George Herring, Dr. Earl Tilford, and a number of others. I will be getting out an announcement on this just as soon as all of the speakers are committed.

One of the more interesting speakers because of the freshness of his material, I think, will be Dr. Xiaoming Zhang of Texas Tech University. He is a former PRC navy officer, son of a former PRC Air Force colonel who had the misfortune of being too closely associated with Lin Biao. Dr. Zhang has been researching, using newly available Chinese materials, the role of the PRC in the defense of North Vietnam, particularly in the period 1964-1969. Some of his material is really most interesting.

1996 Vietnam Symposium. Our main effort here will remain our triennial Vietnam symposium, the next of which is scheduled for 18-20 April 1996. I have already received proposals for a number of papers even though we haven't yet published a call for papers. And Admiral Zumwalt, during his September visit to Vietnam, will hand deliver a letter from the president of Texas Tech University to General Giap inviting him to attend the conference and participate in a panel discussion with Admiral Zumwalt and at least one senior army officer.

This symposium will be held in our new International Cultural Center, which is scheduled for completion in the Fall of 1995. We should be completely moved in several months before the symposium. The new building will include a suite of offices for the Vietnam Center, and some of the most sophisticated meeting facilities. Among other things, we will be able to conduct up to seven separate conference sessions simultaneously (although I can't imagine more than two or three at one time).

We also anticipate that at the 1996 symposium, Admiral Zumwalt will officially open the new Vietnam Archive, and also recognize Douglas Pike for the contribution of his papers to the Archive.

Well, General, I suspect I have already taken up too much of your time. We are honored that you would consider our Archive as the repository for your papers. I can assure you that they would be safeguarded, and, more importantly, used by graduate students. At this point I think we have one of the most active Vietnam graduate programs in the country. Three Vietnam theses completed during the past year, three more expected during the next academic year, and I anticipate that there will be some doctoral dissertations shortly. One of next year's theses will involve a young man who is completing his masters' before accepting a commission in the Army. I anticipate that your papers, should you donate them, will be a very valuable source of information for him. He expects to focus on the application of Army tactics in Vietnam. (In the process of guiding his thesis, I suspect this former naval officer will learn a great deal about the topic.)

I am hopeful, General, that you might find time in your schedule in 1996 to visit us, to see our new facilities, and to join in our symposium. I need hardly tell you that Texas Tech is warmly supportive of military officers to a most remarkable degree. The head of our medical school is Lieutenant General Bernhard T. Mittermeyer, whom you might know. He is also a member of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board. Another member of our board, a lecturer in business administration, and head of our Dads and Moms Association is Major General Dudley Faver, USAF (Ret), a wonderful gentleman and one of our strongest supporters.