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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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August 15?

April 15, 1994

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

Dear Admiral:

Let me briefly update you on conference planning progress:

Army War College Roundtable

We have now received formal acceptances from Doug Pike and General Nguyen Khanh. I think we will stay pretty close to the agenda attached.

1996 Vietnam Symposium

Attached is a somewhat refined agenda for the 1996 symposium. I have added a few people, included Professor Walt Rostow and General Vang Pao. I also have slotted General Westmoreland to give the keynote speech at the dinner this year, if he will agree to attend and participate. In that respect, I have written him a letter inviting him to be keynote speaker and to participate in a panel discussion with you and General Giap if General Giap accepts our invitation to participate.

I have not yet had the honor to meet General Westmoreland, and lacking that personal contact, I am somewhat reluctant to approach him to ask him to participate, particularly regarding the panel discussion with General Giap. Therefore, I have "chickened-out" and am sending my letter to you with the request that you might attach a covering letter. Doubtless, General Westmoreland will respond much more positively to a letter from you.

Aside from General Westmoreland, I have written letters of invitation directly to everyone on the draft agenda for the 1996 conference, and can now only await their response. I am optimistic that there will be a fairly large positive response. I also have kept Vice Admiral Rectanus and Rear Admirals Price and Rauch apprised of developments.

Funding, of course, is always a major concern. I am refining our draft proposal for the NEH, incorporating some guidance the NEH staff has very kindly offered. At the same time, I included \$30,000 for the conference in the line item for the state budget, and also have already begun schmoozing with local people who might be willing to donate to the conference. I feel pretty confident at this point that we will end up with enough money

as the time of the conference approaches. As for the 1995 roundtable, I am confident that we will have sufficient funds for that.

Recognition of Douglas Pike, and of New Scholars

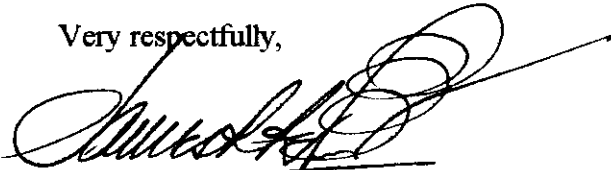
Over the past weekend I have hit upon the idea that our conference banquet in 1996 would provide the ideal venue to give Douglas Pike some award in recognition of his lifetime of dedication to the study of Vietnam. I will work on something, probably a very nicely executed and framed certificate to be signed by you and General Westmoreland and Mr. Colby and Mr. Bundy, as well as President Lawless.

At the same time, I think we could greatly encourage younger scholars by organizing the regular grant of some recognition for outstanding performance: perhaps some formal award for the best Vietnam dissertation or thesis, again, these awards to be handed out during the triennial conference. I will work on the details of this with the local advisory board and come up with some formal plan within the next month or two. I suppose a panel of two or three established Vietnam academics could make the award decisions for us.

Please provide any comments or suggestions you might have for us, particularly regarding the program for the 1996 Symposium. You will see that I have perhaps too glibly slotted you to give the opening address for the symposium. Would you like to do that for us, or is there anything else you would particularly like to do for this meeting?

As always, Admiral, I close again thanking you for all of your support for our endeavor. That support has been, and continues to be, critical to our success.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner

encl: Letter to General Westmoreland
Program for 1995 Roundtable
Program for 1996 Symposium