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LUBBOCK, TX 79409-1013

FAX COVER SHEET

FAX: (806) 742-1060

Date June 28, 1994

From James R. Reckner

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

Number of pages transmitted (including cover sheet): Four

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June 28, 1994

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

Fax: (703) 528-5795

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

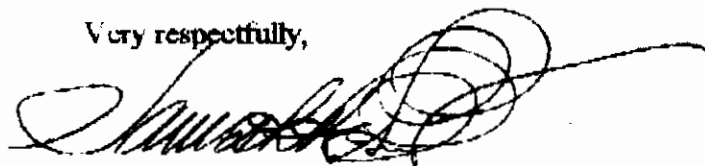
Thank you very much for your letter of 21 June and your offer to hand deliver an invitation to General Giap.

I forward a copy of the correspondence I propose to send to President Lawless requesting a letter inviting General Giap to participate in our conference. I limited the letter to a simple invitation; should he accept, we can then work out the details. As you will hand-deliver the proposed letter, I am particularly anxious for you to review the draft and to be satisfied with its content before I send it forward.

- * Does the letter say everything you think it should?
- * Does it say too much?
- * Concerning the letter's date, would you like me to have it dated at the beginning of September in order more closely to correspond with the dates of your trip?

I apologize for bothering you with these details. I have no experience at diplomacy, and therefore appeal to you. I am particularly keen to ensure that whatever message President Lawless conveys will be completely appropriate for the occasion. We will have only this one opportunity to approach General Giap; the need to "get it right" is obvious.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner

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D - R - A - F - T

June 28, 1994

Dr. Robert W. Lawless
President
Texas Tech University
CAMPUS

Dear Dr. Lawless:

In a letter dated June 21, 1994, Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., wrote:

"I am currently planning to be in Vietnam from September 9-16 for the purpose of meeting with Vietnamese government officials—primarily to discuss Agent Orange; but secondarily to discuss commercial relations. I have requested the opportunity to visit with General Giap. It would be helpful for me to have a letter which I could deliver in person, preferably signed by President Lawless, inviting General Giap to attend the 1996 conference."

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request that you sign such an invitation, a proposed draft of which I have taken the liberty to attach. General Vo Nguyen Giap, a former history teacher, was the founder of the North Vietnamese People's Army, victor over the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, and architect of the communist victory over the United States forces. After the war he served as minister of defense for the reunited Vietnam. His presence at Texas Tech's 1996 Vietnam symposium would elevate that meeting to one of national newsworthiness. We will find no greater opportunity, nor more credible emissary, to deliver an invitation for him to participate than the one that now presents itself.

Admiral Zumwalt has proposed a panel discussion involving himself, General Giap, and one senior U.S. Army officer. [I am hoping that General Westmoreland will be the third participant.] A frank panel discussion involving those three key figures would add considerably to the historical discourse regarding the war, and would be attended with keen interest by the leading American Vietnam historians. Successful arrangement of this event would put a national mark of excellence upon Texas Tech and its Vietnam program.

Very respectfully,

James R. Reckner
Director

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D - R - A - F - T

(Date)

**General Vo Nguyen Giap
Ministry of Defense
Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam**

Dear General Giap:

I take the opportunity afforded by the visit to Vietnam of Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., Chairman of the National Council of Texas Tech University's Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict, to invite you to participate in our second triennial Vietnam symposium, to be held in Lubbock, Texas, 18-20 April 1996.

The purpose of this series of symposia, and, indeed, of the Vietnam Center itself, is to preserve and objectively analyse all aspects of the conflict. We believe that your active participation in an academic exchange of views and data regarding the war will add an important element of balance currently lacking in our historical studies of the war. At the same time, through a positive interaction with some of our war era military and civilian national leaders, your participation, I feel, will add significantly to the growing American sentiment favoring full restoration of diplomatic relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

I urge you to favorably consider this invitation to meet with some of the American war-era leaders, to share with them and many of the leading American Vietnam scholars your unique and important assessment of the war, and to discover the hospitality of the state of Texas and of Texas Tech University.

Very respectfully,

Robert W. Lawless