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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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

2 March 1995

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

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

Thank you for your letter of February 8, 1995. Regarding President Ford, I have been working with Phil Price here in Lubbock. He has located an individual who contributed substantially to the Ford Library and who continues in regular contact with him. He has indicated that he would like to attach a letter to ours when we are prepared to send one. We also will be talking with the local Republican party leadership. Our idea is to try to arrange the best possible offer before actually writing the invitation to the President. I suspect we will have all of that in order before you visit us at the end of the month.

Doug Pike has come and gone, and I suspect he went back home with a fairly positive impression of what we have to offer. The people at the library fairly exuded enthusiasm to acquire the rest of his collection after the executive vice president of the university expressed his interest to them and offered to fund an additional archivist to take care of the papers. At this point we will just have to wait and see what develops from that. I suspect we will hear something from him when he comes to the conference at the end of this month.

The university's history department has completed its search for an Asian historian and has now offered the position to a young lady with a Ph.D. from Cornell named Patricia Pelley, who has accepted. Her dissertation dealt with how the Vietnamese have reinterpreted their history in recent years. She is a Vietnamese language specialist who has a range of current contacts in Vietnamese academia, and although she is of the liberal persuasion (as I suspect just about everyone from Cornell is), I think we will be able to get along reasonably well. One thing seems certain: she will add a depth to the study of Vietnam at Texas Tech which has hitherto been missing.

I look forward to meeting you and Mrs. Zumwalt at the airport on your arrival.

Very respectfully,

James R. Reckner