

# Friends

## of the Vietnam Center

M A Y 1 9 9 4 • V O L U M E 1 I S S U E 1

The Vietnam Center's National Council, Texas Tech President Robert W. Lawless and Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt have been recruiting a National Council for the Vietnam Center. At present, the Council includes: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt (Chairman) • General William C. Westmoreland • Ambassador William E. Colby • Former Assistant Secretary of State William P. Bundy • Former South Vietnamese Ambassador Bui Diem and Professor Douglas Pike. We anticipate adding a few more members in the weeks ahead.



**Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.** needs no introduction for anyone involved in any way with the Vietnam War. As a vice admiral he served as the

Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Vietnam (ComNavForV) from 1968 to 1970. During that time, as commander of the "brown water navy," Admiral Zumwalt initiated Operation SEALORDS, the waterborne strategy designed to employ rivercraft on a series of rivers and canals across the Mekong Delta to curtail communist infiltration and resupply from Cambodia. He also designed the Navy's "Vietnamization" program, which saw a rapidly accelerated turnover of American ships and rivercraft to the South Vietnamese Navy. In 1970 he became Chief of Naval Operations. During his tenure as CNO he attempted to modernize the Navy despite reductions in the Navy's budget. Concerning personnel, Admiral Zumwalt is perhaps most remembered for his wide-ranging and often controversial series of directives, "Z-grams," that influenced many aspects of life in the Navy. As CNO he also was a strong advocate of increased opportunities for women and minorities. Admiral Zumwalt has served as Chairman of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board since its inception in November 1989, and has provided continuing support and guidance of great value.



**William E. Colby** joined the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner of the CIA, during World War II, and participated in

missions behind enemy lines in German-occupied France and Norway in 1944 and 1945. In 1959 Colby became the CIA station chief in South Vietnam, and

directed the CIA's effort there until 1961. In 1962 Colby headed the Far East division of the CIA's plans directorate in Washington, and thus oversaw CIA operations in Vietnam. In 1968 he returned to Vietnam as deputy to the Commander of USMACV, with the rank of ambassador. His duties included overseeing the pacification effort in South Vietnam. In 1974 Colby was appointed Director of Central Intelligence, a position he held until 1976.



**General Westmoreland** served as Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (COMUSMACV) from 1964 to 1968.

As such, he oversaw the buildup of American forces in Vietnam beginning in 1965. As American casualties mounted and the American public became increasingly disenchanted with our Vietnam involvement, General Westmoreland and his "war of attrition"

in Vietnam was subjected to considerable negative media coverage and growing criticism at home. Nevertheless, General Westmoreland, a combat veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, maintained that the American effort in Vietnam was "a noble crusade."

For those of us who served in Vietnam, General Westmoreland will ever remain our commander; therefore, it is a great honor to our Center that he has agreed to join our National Council and advise and assist our continuing development.

## New Facilities

The Center and Archive will be beneficiaries of a "building boom" currently underway at Texas Tech. An \$8.8 million "Special Collections" building has been authorized and is now on the "fast-track" for a Spring 1996 completion. This will become the new home of the Archive of the Vietnam Conflict. If construction goes according to schedule, we will have an official opening of the Archive during the 1996 symposium. Also funded is a \$3.5 million International Cultural Center scheduled for completion in the Summer of 1995. It will provide offices for the Vietnam Center.



## Fund-Raising

**O**ne of the Center's ongoing concerns is to provide funds to enlarge the Archive of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech; to expand the research facilities for students; and ultimately to fund selected research projects. Toward this end we will be conducting a major fund-raising effort in the months ahead. Major General Dudley Faver, USAF (Ret) is heading that effort,

assisted by the University's Office of Institutional Development, Mr. Jim Garrett, and many others. If you are considering financial support for the Vietnam Center, here is one point of which we are very proud: we are a "no-overhead" organization. All of our Board members, the Director and the Treasurer volunteer their time and efforts. No money goes to expensive

professional fund-raisers; every dollar raised goes directly to expenses related to the Center or Archive: the acquisition of research materials, printing and postage and conference-related expenses. The Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech is a great value for your donation.

## Microfilm Collections

An incredible number of document collections relating to Vietnam have now been microfilmed commercially and are available for purchase for the Archive. Thus far we have spent around \$20,000 on microfilms, but there is still about \$120,000 of microfilm collections on our shopping list. These collections range in price from a few hundred dollars to \$20,000 and more. They are essential research tools for students of the American experience in Vietnam; therefore our goal is to acquire a complete collection. Our policy with these collections is that they will always be available for interlibrary loan to any of the thousands of libraries currently participating in the interlibrary loan system. Donation of one of these

collections to our Archive therefore makes the material available to any researcher anywhere in the United States.

We would be happy, too, to name collections purchased for the Archive "In Memory Of," if so desired. What better memorial could there be for a loved one lost in Vietnam than a vehicle for future generations to understand the sacrifices and suffering of the men and women who served in Vietnam?

Here is a selection of some of the microfilm collections on our shopping list. A complete list will be provided on request.

- Echols Collection  
(monograph collection from Cornell University) \$26,000.00

- Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files: Indochina \$11,635.00
- Records of the U.S. Marine Corps in the Vietnam War \$7,765.00
- Vietnam: A Documentary Collection (Westmoreland v. CBS) \$4,270.00
- U.S. Army Build-Up and Activities in South Vietnam, 1965-1972 \$3,135.00
- Records of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (Part 3) \$1,225.00
- CIA Research Reports, Vietnam & Southeast Asia, 1946-76 \$655.00
- A Study of Strategic Lessons Learned in Vietnam \$210.00

## 1996 Conference

**T**he Vietnam Center Advisory Board has decided to conduct a major Vietnam symposium every three years. The next one is scheduled for April 18-20 1996 in Lubbock. Please put that date on your calendar and plan to attend. We will be mailing initial calls for papers later this year and we'll get busy with planning then. In the meantime, Admiral Zumwalt has been endeavoring to arrange a visit by General Vo Nguyen Giap to coincide

with the conference. Should that visit occur, we envision a panel discussion with Admiral Zumwalt, General Giap and at least one senior army officer. A proposal has already been received for a paper examining the Chinese contribution to the air defense of North Vietnam, 1965-1969, which will provide some very interesting new data. Is there someone out there who would present a paper on the Russian contribution to the

North Vietnamese effort? Or any other former Communist-bloc nation's contribution? Or any other related topic? The Center will, of course, consider any proposal and attempt to tailor the symposium to accommodate all proposals. We strongly encourage active participation by graduate students.

# Why Are America's Top Vietnam Veterans Supporting Texas Tech University's Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict?

**A**dmiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, General William C. Westmoreland, Ambassador William E. Colby, former Assistant Secretary of State William P. Bundy, former South Vietnamese Ambassador to the United States Bui Diem, Vietnam scholar and retired foreign service officer Douglas Pike have joined together in the Vietnam Center's National Council to provide guidance and advice for Texas Tech's Vietnam Center. Why have these busy men made this commitment? They all share Admiral Zumwalt's conviction that in working to preserve the record of the American experience in Vietnam for future generations, the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech is filling an important role. We are building a Vietnam memorial, not for Vietnam vets, but for future generations who will have no first-hand knowledge of the war. In encouraging today's younger generation to study the Vietnam

experience, examine the record and arrive at their own conclusions, the Center and Archive offer today's students not only an understanding of our immediate past, but also some basis upon which to formulate more intelligent approaches to America's relations with the world in the years ahead. These are missions important enough to attract Admiral Zumwalt and General Westmoreland. They are important enough, too, to warrant your support; it is up to the younger generation, those who served in Vietnam in relatively junior positions, to actually get on with the work of building the Archive and Center into substantial organizations.

The Vietnam Center is largely dependent upon its own resources. For Vietnam vets reading this newsletter, the need to get on with the task without a lot of support will not be new. We invite

anyone interested in our effort to join the Friends of the Vietnam Center. Funds raised by the Friends will help us to continue operations and to expand our research holdings. Won't you join General Westmoreland, Admiral Zumwalt and the others in helping us to preserve our Vietnam record and make it available to future generations?

Please consider, too, that Texas Tech University has made a "longer-than-lifetime commitment" to preserve Vietnam-related documents, letters, photos, maps, diaries, etc. If you have such materials gathering dust in your attic, please consider donating them to the Archive. And further, we would greatly appreciate your mentioning us to your friends. Either pass this newsletter on, or send us their address and we will send copies to them.

## FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM CENTER

I enclose my check of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for an annual membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please make check payable to the Texas Tech University Foundation c/o the Vietnam Center. Contributions to the Vietnam Center are tax deductible as allowed by law. For additional information regarding membership or to donate materials to the Vietnam Archive, please call the Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3742 or 742-3744.

Mail this form with your check to: The Vietnam Center  
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(\$1,000 per year x 5)



# VIETNAM: PARIS + 20



Vietnam Center Inaugural Dinner, April 1993. Major General Dudley Faver, USAF (retired) introduces Admiral Zumwalt as Lubbock Mayor David Langston looks on.



Commander Bruce Brunson, USN, welcomes Admiral and Mrs. Elmo R. Zumwalt and Rear Admiral Tran Van Chen at the Lubbock International Airport.

The Vietnam Center conducted its first major conference, "Vietnam: Paris + 20," in April of 1993 at Lubbock. Principal participants included the chairman of our Advisory Board, Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Ambassador William E. Colby, former South Vietnamese Chief of Naval Operations Rear Admiral Tran Van Chon, Professor Douglas Pike, Director of the Indochina Archive at the University of California (Berkeley) and Professor George C. Herring from the University of Kentucky. Two dozen academic papers were presented covering topics ranging from early advisory efforts in Vietnam and Laos, to Hollywood to the Australian War Memorial. A panel discussion by Admiral Zumwalt, Ambassador Colby and Professors Pike and Herring was the conference highlight.

The conference was made possible by the generous contributions of many individuals and organizations in Lubbock. They included: American State Bank, who hosted a magnificent reception on the Friday of the conference, and the following individuals and organizations

which provided financial or other support: Delta Airlines, Phil Price Advertising, Inc., Vietnam Veterans of America-Texas Chapter; American Legion George S. Berry Post No. 575, Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, Lubbock Convention & Visitors Bureau, Plains National Bank, Scoggin-Dickey Chevrolet-Buick-Geo, Southwest Public Service Company, Texas Instruments, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, The Friends of the Texas Tech Library, The Trinity Company, Lubbock National Bank, Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society, W.B. "dub" and Mozelle Rushing, Dr. John Buesseler, Dr. William R. Braisted, and, of course, every Friend of the Vietnam Center.

We received many letters following the conference. We would like to share just one with you, from Dr. Earl H. Tilford, Jr.: "Your conference was beautifully organized and orchestrated. The support of the local community was evident and impressive. I have nothing but praise for the way the conference was conducted." This would not have been possible without the support of our Friends.

## Center For The Study Of The Vietnam Conflict

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