

Friends

of the Vietnam Center

<http://www.ttu.edu/~vietnam>

OCTOBER 1996 • VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

Vietnam Center Hosts Second Triennial Vietnam Symposium

The Vietnam Center hosted its second triennial Vietnam symposium, *After the Cold War: Reassessing Vietnam*, 17-20 April 1996, at the Holiday Inn Lubbock Plaza. Participants in the symposium included a wide range of participants and decision makers from the war as well as academics studying the many aspects of the war and its aftermath.

Highlights from the symposium included a keynote speech delivered by former CIA Director and Vietnam Center National Council member William E. Colby just eight days before his untimely death; an opening address by Lieutenant General John H. Cushman; presentations by former Chief of Naval Operations and Vietnam Center National Council Chairman Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., former South Vietnamese Prime Minister General Nguyen Khanh, Laotian General Thong Litt and Major General Vang Pao, the leader of Laos's Hmong people. Academic panelists included Professors George Herring of the University of Kentucky, Charles E. Neu of Brown University, Ilya Gaiduk of the Russian Academy of Sciences, William M. Leary of the University of Georgia, Jane



Professor George C. Herring of the University of Kentucky makes a point during the "International Relationships" panel discussion, 18 April 1996.

Hamilton-Merritt of Southern Connecticut University, and many others. Included in the group were representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, Canada and Russia as well as from universities throughout the United States. Selected papers from the symposium are available on the Vietnam Center's home page.

The symposium concluded with a West Texas barbecue at Texas Tech University's Ranching Heritage Center, where participants toured the many historical ranch buildings assembled there.



Former CIA Director William E. Colby exchanges views with former South Vietnamese Ambassador Bui Diem (left) and former Prime Minister General Nguyen Khanh, Symposium Banquet, 18 April 1996.



Lieutenant General Dave R. Palmer (left) and Rear Admiral Arthur Price examine an historic building at Texas Tech's Ranching Heritage Center during the Symposium West Texas Barbecue, 20 April, 1996.

Documenting Vietnam Veterans' Post-War Experience

In addition to collecting documents related to the American Vietnam experience and Vietnamese history in general, the Archive seeks records of Vietnam veteran activities subsequent to the war. We have, within the last year, received the records of the Vietnam Veterans' Institute. Further, the Archive received a very significant boost along this line with the donation of the records of the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition by that organization's president, J. Thomas Burch. A finding aid has now been created for this collection and should be on the home page by the end of the year. In addition to chronicling the political efforts of the Coalition, the collection included a large number of newsletters of veterans'

organizations from across the country and from Australia. These have been assembled within our periodicals section. We encourage veterans' organizations and individual veterans to donate back copies as well as future editions of their newsletters so that they may become a permanent part of our record, and thus be preserved for future researchers.

The Archive has also received papers from Lieutenant General John H. Cushman, USA (Ret), Colonel Herbert Y. Schandler, USA (Ret), and a collection of letters home from Vietnam by Mr. Tim Staats during his tour in Vietnam as an army aircraft armorer and door gunner.

Vietnam Archive Office Hours

The new Archive office will be opened for consultation with researchers and to conduct other business from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Archive Mailing Address:
Archive of the Vietnam Conflict
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-1041
Phone: (806) 742-9010
Fax: (806) 742-0946

Vietnam Center Home Page
on the Internet:
<http://www.ttu.edu/~vietnam>

Archival Finding Aids

One of the Archive's prime goals is to make as available as possible the materials that we have been able to assemble. To this end we have listed our holdings on the Vietnam Center/Archive home page. In addition, we are processing as rapidly as possible each of the collections we have received and are creating finding aids for them. This year two major finding aids have been completed: one, completed by Research Assistant (and doctoral candidate in

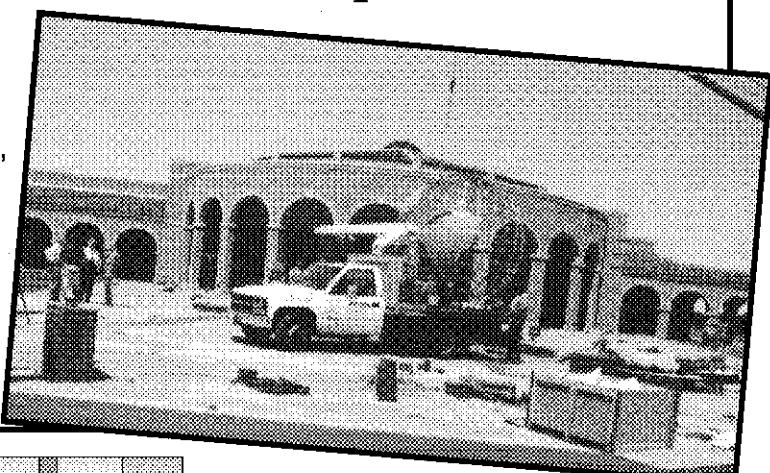
military history) Jim Ginther, covers Unit II of the Douglas Pike Collection, which deals with military strategy. The second finding aid was completed by Fred Allison, another doctoral candidate in military history. This aid covers the J. Thomas Burch Collection of documents related to the National Vietnam Veterans' Coalition. The completed finding aids should be on the home page by the end of the year. The Archive staff is now working on Units I

and V of the Pike Collection and is creating a database for the recently acquired CIA documents. Lists of other major Archive holdings, including doctoral dissertations, newsletters, microfilm, and audiovisual materials have been created by Library Assistant Ann Hebison and also will appear on the home page. Books held in the Archive are catalogued and are accessible through the university library's database, TechPac.

International Cultural Center Nears Completion

Texas Tech University's new International Cultural Center is now nearing completion. The facility, which will provide office space for the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict, and will be the venue for future Vietnam conferences and symposia, will provide state-of-art audiovisual support for conference presentations. It will bring together under one roof Texas Tech's many international programs.

The Vietnam Center's first scheduled function in the new facility will be a public lecture by Vietnam historian and scholar Douglas Pike, scheduled for October 23, 1996.



CIA's Colby: A Backer of Tech's Vietnam Center

By James R. Reckner

The activities of former CIA directors rarely impact directly on our lives here, and even more rarely do such personages descend upon Lubbock. It was different in the case of William E. Colby.

Lubbock provided a connection – through Texas Tech's Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict – to an important part of Ambassador Colby's life. He visited us here twice: in 1993, and again only a few days before his fatal boating accident in Maryland.

And within the last year or so Colby deposited in the Archive of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech a collection of papers, books, photos and mementos that he had gathered while preparing his own book about Vietnam, *Lost Victory*. That collection will remain a permanent part of his Lubbock legacy.

Several years ago when the Vietnam Center was looking for national figures to provide support and high-level visibility for its work, Associate Director Don Walker sought out Colby. Walker had worked for him in Vietnam as a junior State Department officer assigned to an advisory team under Colby's war-pacification program. Not expecting immediate success in his search, Walker checked the Washington, D.C. telephone book. Much to his surprise, he found Colby's number listed.

Thus was Colby enlisted to become a member of the Vietnam Center's National Council, on which he served until his death.

The fact that Colby, a former CIA director, had kept his listing in the directory says much about the man. During his visits here, at other meetings we had in Washington and in Chicago, and in correspondence and telephone conversations with him about the Vietnam Center, I came to know a man absolutely without pretension.

"Just call me Bill," he often said to me. Invariably I replied, "Yes, sir" – it is

difficult to overcome the habit of 20 years' military service. At any rate, Colby deserved that respect.

I have tremendous respect for any of the generation who fought in World War II. Not all were in uniform. As a young man, Colby volunteered for service with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner of the CIA, and parachuted behind German lines in France. There he fought an unheralded war against the Nazis, having little support and knowing that capture would lead to execution as a spy.

By 1950, Colby was back in the intelligence service, now with the CIA, and in 1959 he became CIA Station Chief in Saigon. From that position he observed principal players in the early stages of the war, including Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem, other South Vietnamese leaders and American policy-makers.

In 1962 Colby returned to Washington as head of the CIA's Far East Division, but in 1968 he returned to Vietnam as a deputy – with the rank of ambassador – to Gen. William C. Westmoreland. In 1973 he was appointed Director of Central Intelligence, a position that earned him the enmity of many within the agency when he revealed to Congress many of the CIA's "dirty tricks." He resigned in 1975.

Throughout those years Colby had close contact with many key players of the Vietnam war: Washington decision-makers, politicians and leading military figures. A trained intelligence officer, he was a keen observer of events, which he recounted in his book *Lost Victory*.

Despite a busy schedule, Colby always made himself available to Tech students conducting their own research into Vietnam. Those who sought his views on the war found him to be remarkably authoritative, but also quiet, soft-spoken and easily approachable.

During his final visit here, Colby delivered the keynote address of the



Former CIA Director William E. Colby

1996 Vietnam Symposium at the McInturff Center on the evening of April 18. Speaking without benefit of notes, he recounted the major events of the long war, highlighting key crisis points and suggesting factors that shaped the critical events.

It was a remarkable display of Colby's depth of understanding of the war, smoothly and forcefully presented, without hesitation, without notes: from the heart.

We who were privileged to be in the audience that night were unaware, of course, of the tragic events that would soon follow. We were unaware that we were listening to Colby's last words about a controversial topic that had been such an important part of his life.

Ambassador William E. Colby was an honorable man who performed long, often dangerous and always dedicated service for his country. I feel deeply honored to have known him. With his death, Texas Tech, and particularly the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict, has lost a great friend, supporter and patron.

James R. Reckner is director of the Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University.

1997 "Teaching Vietnam"

As of 1 October 1996. (Speaker assignments are tentative, pending acceptance of invitations.)

THURSDAY, 17 APRIL 1997

Afternoon Participants arrive at Holiday Inn Civic Center
6:00 p.m. Reception/Tour of the Vietnam Archive
8:00 p.m. Dinner at a local restaurant

FRIDAY, 18 APRIL 1997

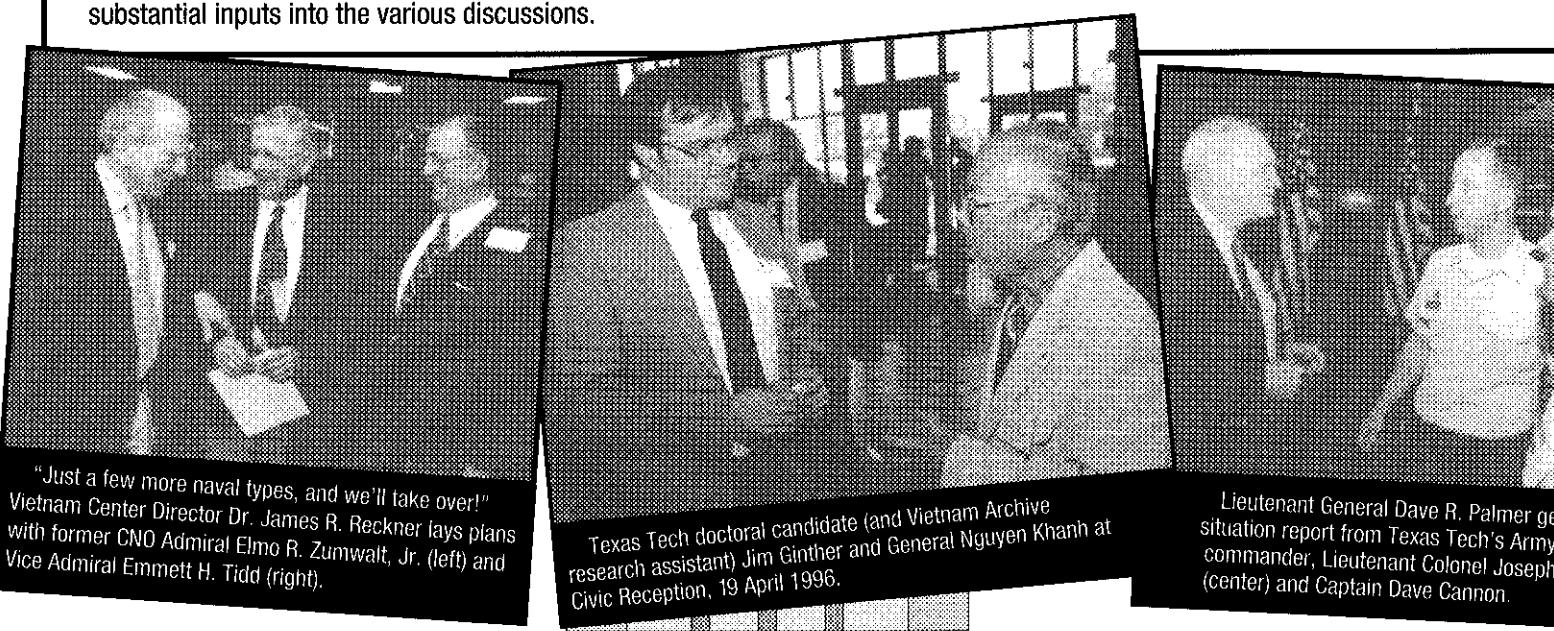
8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks
9:00 a.m. **VIP Panel.** Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., PAVN Lt. Gen. Pham Hong Son, Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, Dr. Daniel Ellsberg
10:45 a.m. Coffee Break
11:00 a.m. **Teaching Vietnam Using Fiction.** Dr. John Clark Pratt, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
12:15 p.m. **Lunch.** Speaker: Ambassador Stephen Lyne
1:30 p.m. **Teaching the American Experience of the War: American Literature and the War.** Dr. Randy Fertel, Tulane University
2:30 p.m. **Teaching Vietnamese Perspectives.** Dr. David Marr, Australian National University
3:30 p.m. **Teaching the Sixties and Vietnam.** Dr. Paul Lyons, Stockton College
4:30 p.m. **Critical Approaches.** Dr. Marc J. Gilbert, North Georgia College
7:30 p.m. **Reception at International Cultural Center**
8:30 p.m. **Conference Banquet.** Keynote Speaker: Dr. George Herring, University of Kentucky

SATURDAY, 19 APRIL 1997

8:30 a.m. **Teaching in the University Setting.** Dr. Steve Potts, Hibbing Community College, Hibbing, Minnesota
8:30 a.m. **Teaching in the Secondary School Setting.** Dr. Dave Berman, University of Pittsburgh
10:15 a.m. **Teaching Resources and the War.** Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC
Noon **Lunch.** Speaker: Dr. William J. Duiker, Penn State University
1:30 p.m. **Recent Workshop Experience.** Dr. Jane Hamilton- Merritt, Southern Connecticut University
2:30 p.m. **Research Resources.** Charles Shaughnessy, National Archives
3:30 p.m. **Roundtable Discussion of all the attendees;** discussion of experiences. Marc J. Gilbert and Joe P. Dunn
4:30 p.m. **Conference concludes.** Time to tour Ranching Heritage Center, etc.
7:30 p.m. **Dinner (West Texas Barbecue)** at County Line Restaurant

Transportation: Vietnam Center staff will meet all conference participants at Lubbock International Airport, and will meet all subsequent transportation needs. There will be no need to rent a car unless individuals specifically wish to do so.

(A firm program will be published in our next newsletter, after we have received responses from our invitations.) It is our intention that this conference take on the aspect of a seminar. There will be one "leader" for each of the scheduled panels who will give a short presentation. But it is anticipated that the audience will be the heart of the program, providing lively and substantial inputs into the various discussions.



m" Conference Agenda

Conference Hotel

The conference hotel will be the Holiday Inn Civic Center. This is a different hotel from the one we used for the 1996 conference, and is located much closer to the Texas Tech campus. In order to make reservations, you can contact the hotel directly at (806) 763-1200. When making reservations, ask for the Vietnam Conference rate, which is \$59.00 per night. Alternatively, you may complete this form and mail it directly to the Holiday Inn Civic Center, 801 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX 79401.

We accept VISA, Diners Club, MasterCard, Carte Blanche, American Express and Discover credit cards. Room rates subject to current taxes. Reservations are not transferable and must be guaranteed by the guest. In case of cancellation, please notify our reservation office at 806-763-1200.

Group name Texas Tech University Vietnam Conference

April 17 - April 20, 1997

Please reserve the following accommodations:

2 Double Beds 1-2 people \$59.00 Atrium Suite 1-2 people \$69.00 King Size Beds 1-2 people \$59.00

ROOM TYPE REQUESTED IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. If not available, room will be assigned at nearest available rate.

Total # of Rooms Total # of persons Number of Nights Arrival Date Departure Date

To honor above rate we require a guaranteed arrival in the form of cash, check, money order or credit card.

"No shows" will be billed for the first night. NOTE: Cancellations must be made prior to 6:00 pm on day of arrival.

Credit Card Type Number Exp. Date

Name

Signature

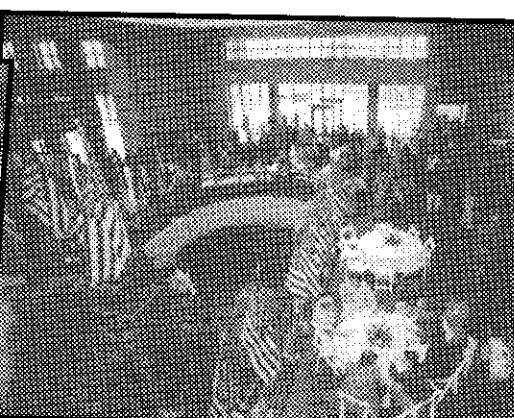
Address

City State ZIP

Phone(s): Home Office

A block or rooms has been reserved for your group. Your reservation must be received prior to March 27, 1997 or the rooms will be made available to the public and our regular rates will apply.

Vietnam Symposium 1996



A civic reception - West Texas style. American State Bank welcomed Vietnam symposium participants with a lavish buffet and tellers booths dispensing "liquid" assets.



Hmong leader and former Royal Laotian Major General Vang Pao delivers a luncheon address, 18 April 1996.



Old Comrades-in-Arms. Former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. (left), and former CIA Director William E. Colby reflect during a panel discussion, 18 April 1996.

Vietnam Archives' New Acquisitions, Fiscal Year 1996

The Archive of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University has continued a very active acquisition program throughout the recently concluded fiscal year.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, the archive acquired the following microfilm research collections:

- John M. Echols Collection. Cornell University. 6,352 fiche.
- Records of the U.S. Marine Corps in the Vietnam War. 78 reels.
- Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files. Indochina. Internal Affairs, 1945-1949. 10 reels with guide.
- Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files. Indochina. Internal Affairs, 1950-1954. 44 reels with guide.
- Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files. Indochina. Internal and Foreign Affairs. 52 reels with guide.

The following collections were acquired with funds from the Center and Archives' own accounts:

- Checo Reports. Air Force Historical Research Center. 59 reels.
- CIA Research Reports: Vietnam and Southeast Asia, 1946-1976. 7 reels.
- Chinh Luan [newspaper], 1964-1975. 33 reels
- The Johnson Administration and Pacification in Vietnam: The Robert Komer - William Leonhart Files, 1966-1968. 15 reels with printed guide.
- The Lyndon B. Johnson National Security Files, 1963-1969. Vietnam. First Supplement. 18 reels with printed guide.
- North Vietnam News Service, 1965-1978, 1980. 30 reels.
- Records of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. Part 3. Progress Reports on Pacification in South Vietnam. 12 reels with guide.
- Transcripts and Files of the Paris Peace Talks on Vietnam, 1968-1973. 12 reels with printed guide.
- U.S. Army Build-up and Activities in South Vietnam, 1965-1972. 29 reels.
- Vietnam Documents and Research Notes Series: Translation and Analysis of Significant Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Documents. 6 reels with printed guide.
- Vietnam Press [Saigon] 1958-1971. 94 reels
- The War in Vietnam: Papers of William C. Westmoreland: Part 1 - History, Statements, and Clippings File. 25 reels with printed guide.
- Maps. One complete set of 588 AMS 1:50,000 maps of Vietnam printed between 1965 and 1975. (These are the ones we actually used in the field.)
- Dissertations. 165 Indochina-related dissertations, bound, hard-copy.

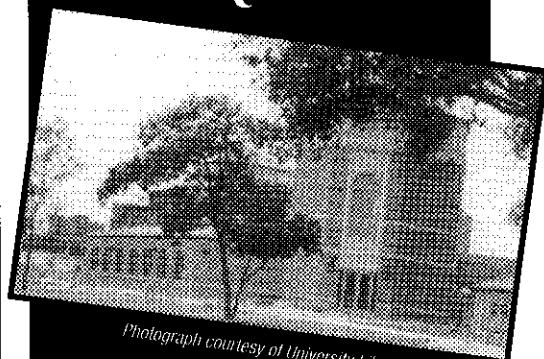
Other Acquisitions:

In addition to the purchase of microfilm collections, the Archive has been fortunate to receive a number of original document collections:

- The J. Thomas Burch Collection. Extensive documentation of the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition and issues of interest to Vietnam veterans.
- CIA Papers. 15,000 pages of CIA reports related to Vietnam provided by Congressman Larry Combest, May, 1996.
- Malcolm McConnell collection. Research papers related to Mr. McConnell's book, *Inside Hanoi's Secret Archives*.

Thanks to the generous support of the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, and other sources, the Archive has been able to devote over \$90,000 to acquisitions thus far this year. We hope to sustain this acquisition program at its current high level.

Vietnam Archive Moving to New Quarters



Photograph courtesy of University Libraries

After many months of anxious anticipation, the Archive of the Vietnam Conflict will move into the new Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library which many of you toured during the 1996 Vietnam symposium. The Archive expects to begin the move in the middle of October and to be fully operational in their new location by the first week of November. Check our home page for specific dates, or, if you are planning to use the archive for research during this period, please call in advance. There will be a grand opening of the new building during the weekend of April 4, 1997, two weeks before the 1997 Vietnam Conference.

The Archive's reading room at the new location will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This large, well-lit area provides a comfortable environment for reading and examining the Archive's resources as well as electrical outlets for computers. Special areas have been created for viewing films and videos and for listening to audiotapes. The new building's photographic facilities will enable us to organize, preserve, and provide access to the growing number of photographs, 8mm films, and other visuals that form part of the Archive's holdings.

1997 Vietnam Conference, "Teaching Vietnam" Registration

The Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict will host a two-day conference focusing exclusively on teaching Vietnam at the secondary and post-secondary level, 18 - 19 April 1997. The venue for this conference will be the International Cultural Center at Texas Tech University, which should enter service in late October of 1996. On the evening of 17 April, the Center, in conjunction with the University

Libraries, will host a reception at the new Archive of the Vietnam Conflict, following which there will be a tour of this magnificent new facility.

In our continuing efforts to engage the Vietnamese in a dialogue about the war, we have again invited Lieutenant General Pham Hong Son, PAVN, to participate. Additionally, we have invited Colonel Ta Minh Kham, a former

commander of the Viet Cong 9th Division, and former South Vietnamese Prime Minister Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky. It is our plan that an initial VIP panel will open the conference program with individual panel members representing different aspects of the war, each responding to the question, "From your particular point of view, what should be taught about the Vietnam War?"

Vietnam Center – 1997 Vietnam Conference: "Teaching Vietnam" Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s): Home _____ Office _____

Conference Registration: \$40.00 Amount: \$ _____

Conference Banquet: \$25.00 Amount: \$ _____

Check or Money Order enclosed for: Amount: \$ _____

Please make payable to Texas Tech University Vietnam Center
Mail to: Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013

FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM CENTER MEMBERSHIP

I enclose my check for \$ _____ for an annual membership.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s): Home _____ Office _____

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
Texas Tech University
Box 41013
Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013

Categories of Memberships

Please check appropriate box.

Individual

- Individual \$25
- Patron \$100
- Benefactor \$500
- Sustaining Life Member \$5,000 (1,000 per year x5)

Corporate

- Corporate \$100
- Corporate Benefactor \$500
- Sustaining Corporate Sponsor \$5,000 (1,000 per year x5)

Center For The Study Of The Vietnam Conflict

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

DOUGLAS PIKE PUBLIC LECTURE

Vietnam scholar and author Douglas Pike, a Vietnam Center National Council member, will give a public lecture at Texas Tech University's International Cultural Center on the evening of 23 October 1996. The topic of his discussion will be the importance of continuing study of Vietnam. His presentation is a joint function of the Vietnam Center and Texas Tech's Asian-Pacific Rim Area Studies Program.



VIETNAM LANGUAGE COURSE TO BE OFFERED AT TEXAS TECH

Texas Tech University's Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Literature, in conjunction with the Vietnam Center, has organized its first Vietnamese language course. We anticipate that this course will begin in the Spring 1997 semester, and will focus principally upon giving graduate students reading skills in Vietnamese. Funding for the course is being provided by the Vietnam Center.

JOINT FOUR-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAM

Texas Tech University has begun preliminary discussions with the Foreign Trade University of Hanoi with a view toward eventually establishing a cooperative four-year degree program. Texas Tech already has similar programs with a number of foreign universities and looks forward to the opportunity to establish a similar link with Vietnam.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Please put the following dates of planned Vietnam Center activities on your planning calendar:

18-19 April 1997

Vietnam Conference:
Teaching Vietnam

17-18 April 1998

Vietnam Conference:
Vietnam in Asia:
An Interdisciplinary Conference on Vietnamese Culture, History and Language

15-17 April 1999

Third Triennial Vietnam Symposium