

August 22nd 1988

Proffesor Walter H. Capps  
Dept. of Religious Studies  
University of Santa Barbara,  
California 93106

Dear Proffesor Capps:

Thank you very much for your letter of Aug 8th 1988.  
Thank you also for your acceptance of the letters and associated materials that I have retained from the Vietnam war era.

As a sort of inventory I will give a general list of what I am enclosing in the shipment. : 1. There are about 36 copies of letters that I sent to Presidents Johnson and Nixon with the "stock" answers from the State Department. There were a couple of acknowledgments from the White House, as you will note but only to state that the letter was being forwarded to the Dept of State for reply. The 36 letters covers about 6½ years (70 months) so my letter writing averages out to about one letter every two months. I have left any materials sent with the letters attached so that it is in context.

2. The following is the list of public figures from whom I received a response with their letter attached. You will note that they all have personal signatures except U.S. ambassador to U.N. - Arthur Goldberg, Senator Gruening (signed by Arthur Schlesinger), Lester B Pearson Prime Minister of Canada and Hon U Thant Director General of the U.N.

- Thomas B Adams Senatorial candidate -- Mass
- Glenn M Anderson M.C. (Member of Congress)
- George Brown M.C.
- John Burton - Assemblyman
- Phillip Burton M.C.
- Frank Church - Senator Idaho
- Joseph Clark - Senator
- John Sherman Cooper -- Senator
- Alan Cranston -- Senator
- Don Edwards -- M.C.
- Wm Fulbright Senator
- Hon. Arthur Goldberg U.S. ambassador to U.N.
- Ernest Gruening -- Senator
- Robert Kennedy Senator
- Thomas Kuchel -- Senator
- Eugene McCarthy Senator
- George McGovern Senator
- Wayne Morris -- Senator
- Thurston Morton -- Senator
- George Murphy -- Senator
- Prime Minister Lester Pearson Prime Minister Canada (Nobel Peace Prize)
- Thomas Rees M.C.
- George Romney -- Governor of Michigan
- Hugh Scott -- Senator
- Hon U Thant Director General of United Nations.
- Jerome Waldie M.C.

I record 10 letters for which I received no answer. They were: Senator Clifford Case, Author Margaret Hoffman author (although I did reorder her book on different occasions), Rev. Martin Luther King, Senator Mike Mansfield, Senator Karl Mundt, Senator Charles Percy, Rep. Ed Roybal, Sec'y of State Dean Rusk, Mr Robert Vaughn - movie actor and Senator Stephen Young.

In the shipment I have isolated some 25 booklets, briefs etc that comprise mainly various hearings, reports, position papers by the administration. Also the Republican parties "White Paper" that became very controversial. Also a number of Dept of State review bulletins. Together these comprise the administrations point of view.

There are considerable other materials on Vietnam and related topics, that were mostly anti-Vietnamese war in view point. There are also some "work sheets" taken at a "work shop" at the Pacific Unitarian Church in Palos Verdes, California.

I originally had about 15 books (by 1972) on Vietnam, but several years ago I contributed most of these to a local library. One of the outstanding books that I recall was "The Arrogance of Power" by Senator Wm Fulbright. Most of the other I do not recall by name or author, although I seem to recall that there may have been one by Averall Harriman. The 4 books that I have retained, I am enclosing for your permanent records (no need of return). They are 1. "Peace in Vietnam" by the Quakers (American Friends Service Committee). You will note that it is heavily underlined. This was my "office" copy and I kept it in my reception room where it produced the full range of cautiously supportive comment to violently antagonistic argument.

2. "Vietnam Viewpoints" by Margaret Hoffman. Her address as it was at that time is in the flyleaf of the book. I purchased extra copies of both of these two books which I gave to interested people.

3. "Biography of Florence Beaumont" who burned herself to death on the steps of the Los Angeles Federal Building is self explanatory. The enclosed leaflet was distributed at the memorial service held for her in 1967 (which I attended).

4. "Vietnam in photographs and text" by Felix Greene.

I had not looked at any of these materials since that era, but in preparing them for shipment to you, reviewed some of the materials with renewed interest. It rekindled some of the moral outrage (as I felt it <sup>to be</sup>) I would imagine that my experience was somewhat of a microcosm of the resistance movement to the American War in Vietnam. I think I exercised some restraint in my letters until the bombing of Cambodia in December 1972. At that point (6½ years after the first letter), I find that my letters became shrill and strident in tone. I do not record any letters after Feb 1973. I do not recall the reason. I moved my residence in 1973 (again in 1985 and again in 1987), so it is possible I misplaced any that I may have had. You may note that I received replies to my letters to President Johnson-- even if only the stock answers and materials from the Dept of State. However it was the 9th letter that brought the first reply from President Nixon.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to contribute these materials to a University program such as your course on the Vietnamese war. I feel that there has not yet been an adequate catharsis of the American consciousness to put the Vietnamese experience behind us. The current controversy over the vice presidential nominee (Republican) Senator Quayle is an example. I think that the healing process can only come from profound examination of all aspects of that conflict, including origin and consequences. Your course, as described on the "60 Minutes" program must certainly one of the first major attempts at this analysis. I have to be deeply thankful that such a course is now available. Only by understanding the past can we avoid similar future situations, and the younger generation most need that enlightenment. I hope that you will be able to continue and develop the course in future years, and that it will provide inspiration to other universities to do the same.

I am happy to contribute the enclosed materials and pay the shipping charges. I would only appreciate knowing it arrived OK and also possibly in future (months or years) that there may have been something of value.

I am sending this letter under separate cover, and enclose #2 copy in the shipment. You may respond to my Box 652, Paramount, Ca 90723 address on this

occasion, but in future to

David Meakes  
2351-B Via Mariposa West  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

*David Meakes*