

Advisory Team 91
APO SF 96399
24 November 1970

President Richard Nixon
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

The newspaper today stated that the United States has bombed North Vietnam in retribution for their shooting down a US spy plane that was flying over North Vietnamese territory.

As a citizen of the United States and as a member of the US armed forces serving in Vietnam, I wish to express my vehement disapproval of such an irrational and blatantly aggressive act by our country. In my opinion, it is morally disgusting enough that the US has taken sides in a civil war on the side of an elitist dictatorship, but for the US to revenge the homicide of the enemies of "our side", especially in retribution for a defense against a spy mission, makes me almost unbearably ashamed to be an American.

I am serving here proud of the fact that I am helping to build up South Vietnam, but all I can feel is shame toward my country that seems to be doing its best to prolong this hopelessly wasteful and blatantly unjust war.

You are lucky that you have alot of counrils like me, afraid to go to jail for what I believe in, to fight this corrupt war for you. I will never vote for a government that encourages prolonging this war, as yours is doing.

Sincerely,

Robert M Hunter

Robert M. Hunter
112 211

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

BOB WILSON
36TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
(SAN DIEGO COUNTY)



December 1, 1970

Dear Lieutenant Hunter:

We received the enclosed envelope from you and regret to advise that a letter was not enclosed.

If we may be of assistance to you in any way, please let us know.

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Bob Wilson
Member of Congress

Lieutenant R. Hunter
435 70 0679
ADV TM 91
APO/San Francisco 96399



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 11, 1971

1 Lieutenant Robert M. Hunter
435 700679
Advisory Team 91
APO San Francisco, California 96399

Dear Lieutenant Hunter:

President Nixon has asked me to reply to your comments on Viet-Nam, where you are serving. I share the President's pleasure that you have given us the benefit of your thinking.

The claim that the conflict in Viet-Nam is primarily a civil war or an internal revolution is not supported by the facts. This war is the direct result of the announced objective of the Hanoi regime to conquer the Republic of Viet-Nam. In what the North Vietnamese communists call a "war of national liberation," the political, subversive and military activities of the Viet Cong are directed from Hanoi. The Viet Cong as well as the regular North Vietnamese troops are commanded principally by North Vietnamese officers and noncommissioned officers, assisted by specialists. These forces are supplied with weapons sent from North Viet-Nam and provided originally by communist countries, primarily the Soviet Union and Communist China. The efforts of these military forces and subversive agents to seize South Viet-Nam violate international agreements and disregard the wishes of the South Vietnamese people. In contrast, we are in South Viet-Nam at the wish and request of the South Vietnamese Government and people to assist them in defending their country against aggression.

The communists maintain that whether they were born in the North or the South, the Viet Cong still are Vietnamese and therefore are engaged in a purely indigenous revolt against a puppet government. The Viet Cong certainly are Vietnamese; so were the North Koreans who invaded South Korea in 1950. Common ethnic origin does not, of itself, make an armed attack across an international boundary into an indigenous revolt. The reality in Viet-Nam is that military forces and supplies have been sent across an established demarcation line to destroy the independence of a neighboring country. This line is no less real than any other national or international boundary.

We have always made clear that the United States would continue aerial reconnaissance over North Viet-Nam following the cessation of bombing on November 1, 1968. At that time the United States agreed to stop all bombing and other acts involving the use of force over North Viet-Nam. Aerial reconnaissance is not an act of force. The US Government made it known in private talks with the North Vietnamese that our reconnaissance flights over North Viet-Nam would continue. There is no question but that the North Vietnamese clearly understood our position on these flights.

We have also repeatedly made clear that we would take whatever actions were necessary to protect our pilots and aircraft on these missions. President Nixon reaffirmed this policy of protective reaction at his news conference on December 10, 1970:

"I must insist that there be continued reconnaissance over North Viet-Nam because as we are withdrawing our forces, I have to see whether or not there's any chance of a strike against those forces that remain. And we have to watch for the build-up.

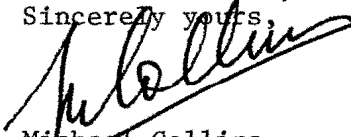
"If our planes are fired upon, I will not only order that they return the fire, but I will order that the missile site be destroyed and that the military complex around that site which supports it also be destroyed by bombing."

The President also emphasized at his news conference that while we are withdrawing from South Viet-Nam, it is vitally important that he as Commander-in-Chief take the action that is necessary to protect our remaining forces, because the number of our ground combat forces is declining steadily:

"Now, if...the North Vietnamese by their infiltration threaten our remaining forces--if they thereby develop a capacity to increase the level of fighting in South Viet-Nam--then I will order the bombing of military sites in North Viet-Nam, the passes that lead from North Viet-Nam into South Viet-Nam, the military complexes and the military supply lines."

There has been no change in the policy of endeavoring to contract and shorten the war in South Viet-Nam, to which the United States remains committed. Vietnamization is progressing steadily; US troop reductions are continuing on schedule. However, in following this policy, we cannot remain passive in the face of actions by the other side which are obviously calculated to diminish the real opportunities for a just and lasting peace.

Sincerely yours,


Michael Collins
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

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ALFRED E. ALQUIST
STATE SENATOR
THIRTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
SANTA CLARA COUNTY

COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
VICE CHAIRMAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
TRANSPORTATION
WATER

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Senate



December 7, 1970

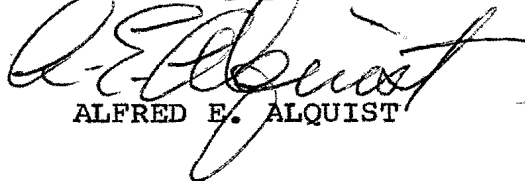
1LT Robert M. Hunter
435-70-0679
Advisory Team 91
APO San Francisco 96399

Dear Lieutenant Hunter:

Thank you for the copy of your letter to
President Nixon.

You may be sure of my agreement with the
goal of the earliest possible withdrawal
from the Vietnamese war.

Cordially yours,



ALFRED E. ALQUIST

AEA/11

PLEASE REPLY

HOME ADDRESS

509 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95113
TEL.: 293-4861

SACRAMENTO ADDRESS

STATE CAPITOL

95814
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California State Senate

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JOINT COMMITTEES
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
VICE CHAIRMAN
PENAL CODE REVISION

CLARK L. BRADLEY
SENATOR
FOURTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
SANTA CLARA AND ALAMEDA COUNTIES

December 9, 1970

1 Lt. Robert M. Hunter
435-70-0679
Advisory Team 91
APO San Francisco 96399

Dear Lt. Hunter:

This will acknowledge a copy of your letter to the President of the United States dated November 24th. I am well aware that the fact that there are a few people like yourself serving in the armed forces who come up with such ideas like yours expressed in your letter to the President.

For your information, your letter is completely wrong and you are simply the victim of communist propoganda designed to discourage as many young Americans as possible.

What you have not taken into account is that the communists started this war against South Vietnam contrary to the treaty which they signed. This is consistent with their policy at all times to abide by a treaty only so long as it serves their purpose.

If the South Vietnamese people wanted the communists to take them over, they could have surrendered to the communists years ago before the United States had even sent any supplies and advisors. This proves that these people are sincerely fighting for their country and expressing, by their willingness to fight and die for their country, their hatred of communism and their desire to have their own system of government.

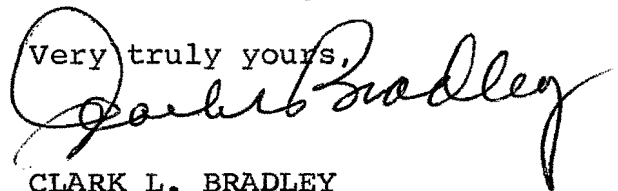
Lastly, if you and your left wing friends think it is so smart to let the communists take over one country after another, then have you come to think about what will eventually happen when the communists begin to attack major countries? The answer obviously is that except

1 Lt. Robert M. Hunter
Page Two
December 9, 1970

for people who have been brainwashed like yourself, it is going to lead to a major war in which this country will be under attack and there won't be any fox hole big enough to take care of one like yourself although you may have an opportunity to reflect that it was your acceptance of this kind of propoganda which deliberately contributed to such a conflict.

I strongly suggest that you do a lot more thinking on this subject and you will find that you are in reality fighting for the defense of this country where you are just as much as if the action were here in California.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clark L. Bradley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

CLARK L. BRADLEY
State Senator

CLB/mkl

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 4, 1970

Mr. Robert M. Hunter
Advisory Team 9-1
APO San Francisco, California 96399

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Thanks so very much for your recent letter concerning the bombing of North Vietnam and the raid on the Sontay POW camp near Hanoi.

As we have witnessed in the past, the bombing of North Vietnam has not brought us closer to a negotiated end to the war, nor has it proved to be a successful strategic operation. Our renewed bombing of the North represents a possible escalation of the war when we should be making every effort to withdraw all American troops safely.

Concerning the raid on the POW camp, all Americans recognize the heroic efforts of the men involved in this operation. However, this raid is an example of a policy of desperation. Such acts take place due to the absence of a negotiated settlement in Paris, and the lack of a public timetable for the complete withdrawal of all of our troops.

I am glad you took the time to contact me on this vital issue. I assure you that I will continue to work for the safe withdrawal of American troops from this tragic conflict.

Sincerely,


Alan Cranston