



October 14, 1987

Max Terral
2431 E. 56th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90058

Dear Mr. Terral:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful response to the CBS "60 Minutes" segment that focused on the class that I teach.

You raise some very thoughtful questions. We do try to cover as many aspects and views as we can in the ten weeks of the academic quarter.

Many thanks for writing.

Sincerely,

Walter H. Capps
Acting Director

5 Oct. 1987

Dear Professor Coak,

I would like you to know why America went to Vietnam and why we didn't stay to win the victory so many young Americans paid with their lives to achieve.

We went there at a time when communism was threatening the free world and had to be stopped in Southeast Asia. Had we not defended South Vietnam, the whole area would have been swallowed up by Soviet backed North Vietnam long ago.

The US forces with our allies defeated the Viet Cong and drove the North Vietnamese Army into Cambodia. At that point, the American news media finally captured the public opinion and so distorted the American people's concept of the war in Vietnam that Congress, under pressure from Frank Church among others, enacted legislation that effectively nullified our military gains.

The South Vietnamese ground forces had grown strong, their air force was flying jet aircraft and

the civilian population was able to move about freely without fear. Rice crops were being harvested by farmers who had been given back their land.

A military victory was a real possibility when the United States cut off support and pulled out which sealed the fate of South Vietnam.

Today the Russian navy has a deep water port at Cam Ranh Bay where its ships and submarines can menace the South China Sea. We should have stayed to secure the victory paid for by Americans.

lives... but we didn't.

Those Vietnam veterans who speak to the classes on the war, don't know why they were there. The horror of war on the level orientals conduct war, was too much for boys just out of high school.

But they went, grew up almost overnight, died, and managed to defeat their enemy on his terms.

They too should go to your classes to learn why they were sent to fight a war they still don't understand.

We should have saved South Vietnam, but we

hid it. The veterans are right; there should never be another situation like the Vietnam war. The news media must never again be in control of our destiny.

Please give your students the reasons why Americans went to Vietnam and why it has taken so long for the truth to come out. The news media will never accept responsibility for its outcome, but some day that too will be realized by the American people.

Sincerely
A. Owens

Vietnam 1968