

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
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4 May 1992

EXHIBIT G

Dear Mr. Stanton:

At its meeting on 16 April, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed minor design modifications to the sculpture for the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

The members were pleased that the board of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project limited the changes suggested by the staff of the National Capital Planning Commission to those presented; if the posture of the kneeling figure had been changed, the poignancy and feeling of isolation and despair would have been lost.

There were no serious objections to moving the helmet from the right to the left hand, if the sculptor really feels this improves the composition; but the members thought that the change in the position of the head, focusing the gaze on the helmet, lessened the feeling of isolation and anguish. Also, the open hand position did not have the impact of the original, depicted as resting on the thigh. It was noted also that an open hand would be more subject to vandalism.

The Commission agreed with the Park Service that the change in the position of the left hand of the standing figure would remove a potential hazard without changing the emotional impact of the figure.

In short, although the Commission remains enthusiastic about this piece, the members did not feel that the design had been improved by the changes. It was suggested that the Commission's comments be given to the artist, and that she be allowed to make the final decision.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Robert G. Stanton, Regional Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20242