



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1987

EXHIBIT A

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

OCT 21 1987

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We have been approached by the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc. with a proposal to recognize the contribution of women, principally a nurse, who served in Vietnam. This recognition would be in the form of an additional statue to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

This statue would not be placed in proximity to the existing sculpture of the three fighting men, but rather is envisioned as a separate statue standing alone at the opposite end of the memorial. There is a group of trees where the statue could be erected in the same relative position to the wall as the three fighting men are to it, thus closing the design. There may be other appropriate locations at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which further study may unfold.

Based on the professional recommendation of the Director of the National Park Service, I support the inclusion of a commemorative statue that represents all women who served our country in the Vietnam War. My thinking is that the statue should not be restricted to any particular branch of the armed services, but I am prepared to defer to the Commission's expertise and judgment on that matter.

In 1980, P.L. 96-297 authorized the establishment of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. That law provides that the design be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission. We believe that the proposed statue fits within that provision of the law.

I, therefore, am recommending that this commemorative statue, representing all women who served in Vietnam, be added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I seek your views at this time.

Sincerely,

DONALD PAUL HODEL