

I don't think it is subject to misinterpretation by the people in Saigon, however, who know the role we play there. It is subject to misinterpretation here, as that newspaper story has misinterpreted it.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Your answer to my question is then despite this permissive authority given to the Ambassador to see that correspondents do not go on missions likely to result in stories harmful to the war effort, that correspondents have in fact always been allowed to go on missions, except in this one instance in November.

Mr. HILSMAN. I say yes, to my knowledge, since this cable. Now there may have been another example, but to my knowledge, my personal knowledge, since this cable has gone, the only operation on which correspondents were forbidden to go was the Zone D operation in November. This was not our decision. It was against our policy.

Mr. MEADER. I had yielded. If I may continue now. I would like to know, Mr. Hilsman, if there is anybody in the room that does know the background of the preparation of this document, who had a hand in it and knows how it was done. And if there were preliminary drafts, I would like to see them.

And second, I would like to have an answer to the question Mr. Reuss asked. Has this cable ever been rescinded?

Mr. HILSMAN. That is not the way procedures are handled in the Government. It has been superseded.

Mr. MEADER. Another layer of something?

Mr. HILSMAN. By layers on layers of cables.

Mr. MEADER. But this document is a joint document, joint State, Defense, and USIA message?

Mr. HILSMAN. I think I have a way of answering your question.

Mr. MEADER. The document dated December 19, 1962, which the chairman called attention to is a military instruction to military personnel. I would think, whatever its effect may be, it would not supersede a joint document of three agencies.

Mr. HILSMAN. The other document was a result of joint policy decisions, sir. The letter from General Harkins, that document is a statement of our present policy.

Mr. MEADER. Let me ask this question. Our Embassy personnel and other personnel in Saigon, are they still operating under the cable * * * today?

Mr. HILSMAN. No, sir. It has been many times superseded. But let me stress again that the major policy statement—

Mr. MEADER. Can you furnish us with the documents which supersede it?

GENERAL HARKINS' MEMO

Mr. HILSMAN. General Harkins' letter, sir.

Mr. MEADER. General Harkins' letter?

Mr. HILSMAN. Is a summation—

Mr. MEADER. Is that the only document that supersedes the cable of February 20?

Mr. HILSMAN. There are many—well, I wouldn't say that. Let's say that the General Harkins document is an accurate summation of the decision made between * * * and December 19 on this subject matter.

Mr. MEADER. Let's say I am the Ambassador in Saigon today. Do I forget completely about this document?