

Mr. HILSMAN. Let me stress that the policy statement in the document is a statement moving toward liberalization of policy, toward providing transportation and everything else for the press. Now those provisions of the cable which call for providing transportation for the press et cetera are still in effect. We still do this.

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Chairman, could I just try to see if I can understand. I have a little trouble understanding how a memorandum from General Harkins can supersede one signed by Secretary Rusk.

Mr. HILSMAN. My point was, sir, that General Harkins' letter was a summation of press policy that had been made by the State Department, Defense Department jointly, and USIA.

Mr. HARDY. That may be, but I don't know whether it could be expected to be interpreted that way or not.

Now, General Harkins addressed his communication only to military advisory personnel. It was apparently distributed also—no, it was sent to the Department of State by Cincpac. Now that is real, real nice. General Harkins is out in the field and in a position of advising the Department of State as to what the general policy is.

Mr. HILSMAN. That is not the way it came about, sir.

Mr. MOSS. Would the gentleman yield for a moment? I think the record should show that airgram No. 327 is from the American Embassy in Saigon to the Department of State. It is on information. The subject is "Guidance to U.S. Military Advisers on Press Relations."

The transmitting document is signed by Robert E. Barbour, Second Secretary of the Embassy. Included as part of it are the attachments. One of them is the directive to all U.S. military advisory personnel in South Vietnam from General Harkins. So it would appear to be a joint rather than a military document.

(The material referred to follows:)

Airgram No. 327.

Date: December 19, 1962.

To: Department of State.

Info: CINCPAC.

From: Amembassy Saigon.

Subject: MACV Guidance to U.S. Military Advisers on Press Relations.

Ref: CINCPAC also for POLAD

On November 24, General Harkins sent a letter addressed to all U.S. military advisory personnel providing them with guidance on relations with the press. The main points of this excellent letter are:

1. Advisers should make every effort to accommodate correspondents to the extent allowed by the local situation;
2. When discussing information with the press, advisers should always be sincere and truthful, but classified areas must be thoroughly understood by all military personnel and not touched upon; if an adviser would rather not discuss a question, he should say so;
3. It is good to remember that U.S. military personnel are in Vietnam to advise, assist and support the Vietnamese Government in its efforts to maintain its independence against Communist subversion; wherever possible, it is preferable that Vietnamese officers brief the press on operations and advisers should urge their counterparts to do so.
4. Regarding discussion of operations, the general techniques of the operation, the overall plan and any interesting and significant points may be discussed as long as the article is not published prior to the initiation of the plan or does not reveal the plan's details; U.S. support for the operation in general, not specific, terms and adviser participation are also good subjects;
5. Avoid discussing intelligence matters;
6. The American public has the right to maximum information concerning its armed services and their activities; this information should be limited only by restrictions imposed to safeguard the national interest.