

Mr. FASCELL. That may be evidence which is adduced to make the point that I am making. I don't know. I would not want to say one way or the other whether there is or isn't.

Mr. HARDY. I wouldn't either.

Mr. FASCELL. How can you have any kind of guideline when you start out with fundamentals which can be interpreted by everybody differently.

You can't have a guideline. It is impossible. So we have got an exercise in futility on a moot question.

Mr. HARDY. I am inclined to agree with that.

Mr. FASCELL. I don't see any point in going into all the rest of the stuff, frankly. I don't know how you would operate it.

You would have to have an intelligent Ambassador working with the news guys, and he would have to be smart enough and politic enough not to get in trouble in spite of the fact that the military man writes down a firm guideline or the State Department writes down a firm guideline. I think the guy who wrote that cablegram, for example—and here again this is pure conjecture—wrote it so loose because he knew it wasn't going to be confidential very long.

Who are we kidding? Does the guideline really operate? In a military mission would you want it to operate if you were in command? I sure wouldn't. I'd say sure, write up a good one so when the press boys pick it up and print it in the newspaper, it looks good.

Mr. MEADER. You don't think this cablegram looks good in the newspapers, do you?

Mr. FASCELL. You could write one that looks good. I don't think it would be meaningful except it would keep us from having a hearing.

Mr. MEADER. You don't think this cablegram would look very good if it was published, do you?

Mr. FASCELL. This one?

Mr. MEADER. Yes.

Mr. FASCELL. It might not be too bad in certain places. It carries out our fundamental U.S. foreign policy, George, that this is not a U.S. war.

Now how can you beat that? You could write all the news stories coming out of the battle area that indicate that it wasn't, while you might be carrying out your foreign policy, I don't know.

Mr. Moss. If you gentlemen will refer to item 8 on General Harkins' letter:

From time to time guidance on release of sensitive information will be disseminated to all advisers. This guidance should be strictly adhered to.

We have just had phoned to us—

Mr. FASCELL. Another guidance?

NEW INFORMATION GUIDELINE

Mr. Moss. A summary of three guidances issued under that paragraph. The first one dated May 4, 1963, gives this instruction:

Generally the people dealing with correspondents should give them all possible unclassified information. However, the fact that newsmen go to the field with the military does not mean that they are entitled to the classified information and, therefore, they will not get any classified information.