

Guideline 2 of May 11, 1963, states:

When correspondents are reporting downed aircraft and/or helicopters, they often report them as "shot down." Unless they actually know that such airplanes are in fact shot down, they should not use that terminology.

Guideline 3 dated January 4, 1963, states:

In commenting on the actions of the South Vietnamese, the reporters should not criticize them unless it is clearly warranted. We are in Vietnam in an advisory capacity and our responsibility is to help, not alienate.

Mr. FASCELL. I think that is a good guideline myself.

Mr. GRIFFIN. How is this guidance enforced?

Mr. HARDY. I think one thing we have got to keep in mind the point our colleague raised a while ago. This is not our war. That is a policy statement, and we have got to subscribe to that whether we believe it or not.

Mr. FASCELL. How can you do that? That is impossible. You can't make a newsman do it; that is the whole problem.

Mr. HARDY. I am not talking about the newsmen. I am talking about us.

Mr. FASCELL. I know, but this is the whole philosophical discussion that I have got into, and the reason I raised the issue.

How can you have any guideline for any newsman when you start out with the basic foreign policy assumption? Are you going to give that newsman the right to interpret the facts?

I mean, is this what we are talking about?

Mr. MOSS. However, we characterize our engagement in Vietnam, we are there and we are doing something.

Mr. FASCELL. That is right, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOSS. But from a practical standpoint, if we are going to examine foreign policies of our Government, we have two ways of doing it:

(1) The nature of the complaints received by those actually covering these activities in Vietnam and,

(2) The nature of the instructions in the hands of the men who actually operate, and with whom the press maintains contact.

Now whatever the telegram to the Ambassador or the cablegram to the Ambassador might say, it is very much like some of the laws we pass here. Until we see the rules and regulations of the agencies, we don't know what we have written.

Mr. FASCELL. I agree with that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOSS. And so the operational personnel are instructed in a certain manner.

Now we have the current instructions with the changes ordered under the paragraph 8 of those instructions. I think it is most pertinent to an inquiry on availability of information to examine the actual instructions to personnel who have contact with the press, to determine whether those instructions are such as to inhibit the gathering of news, to foreclose opportunity for a full viewing and reporting of the activities taking place in Vietnam.

Now the general nature of the complaint that we have received goes more to the Government of Vietnam than to the Government of the United States. To my knowledge the complaints voiced to me are frequently over lengthy delays in the transmission of information.