

Mr. HILSMAN. Perhaps I did not sufficiently underline "consistent with military security."

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Mr. GRIFFIN. I don't think he would be criticized for being on the side of caution there, and not assume risks in that area. But there is lots of criticism when newspapers can't have access to the things that actually occur.

Mr. HILSMAN. Yes.

Mr. MOSS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRIFFIN. Yes.

Mr. MOSS. The very purpose of a briefing * * * is to make it possible for them to have access to the facts, and it follows the tradition of government during periods of war of dealing very candidly with the press.

I think a review of any of our wars will indicate that the press has been scrupulous in maintaining the confidence or keeping the confidence of the Government in these briefings.

Mr. HILSMAN. That is right. May I put one qualification to this, sir, and that is—and this I think is partly in answer to your statement—we cannot go as far nor do we go as far as we went in World War II and Korea. The reason we can't is that there is no censorship.

Now in both the Korean war and World War II correspondents' cables were censored, and a qualified military expert could say, "Look, you slipped here" but in the absence of such censorship, we can't be quite as forthcoming in advance as we were in World War II and Korea.

On balance everyone, press and ourselves, agree that it is better to do it this way than to try to institute censorship. * * *

Mr. MOSS. Are you aware of any serious breach of security on the part of these reporters in reporting on activities in Vietnam?

Mr. HILSMAN. Not in this instance, and this is another reason for doing it as much as we can, because the breaches of security, and there have been some, have been where the reporters picked up rumors and had not been briefed.

It is precisely in order to avoid this, where the reporting of a rumor would be accurate enough to cause casualties.

What we are trying to do is give them enough information so that they won't print the rumors because some of the rumors might be accurate. The war is conducted, as you know, in an extremely open fashion. Many of the operations go right out of Tan Son Nhut Airport, and people are in apartment houses nearby, and this is something of a handicap in fighting this sort of thing.

Mr. MOSS. Are there further questions? If not, I want to thank you for your testimony and the very cooperative attitude displayed toward the subcommittee in the course of our study.

Mr. HILSMAN. Thank you very much, sir.

(Whereupon, at 12 o'clock noon, the hearing was adjourned until 10 a.m., Monday, May 27, 1963.)