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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF
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March 26, 1968

Mr. Beverly Deepe
Christian Science Monitor
38 Vo Tanh
Saigon

Dear Mr. Deepe:

As you know, there is growing concern in the Congress and the public over discrepancies between Administration statements and news reports on developments in Vietnam.


It is difficult for many members of the Committee on Foreign Relations to understand how objective reporters and conscientious United States officials could view the situation so differently. This Committee recently held two days of hearings with Secretary Rusk and received a full exposition of the Administration's policy and its appraisal of the current situation. Although, from time to time, the Committee has had informal discussions with reporters who have returned from Vietnam, it has not formally solicited the comments of a cross-section of reporters on the scene.

The purpose of this letter is to ask your assistance in helping to broaden the Committee's and public's knowledge of this complex and confusing conflict by providing our members with your personal observations on where we stand in Vietnam. Enclosed is a list of questions being sent to a representative list of correspondents of major United States newspapers, magazines, and radio and television networks. I hope that you, or one of your associates, will be willing to give the Committee your comments, in as much detail as you see fit. It is my intention to print the replies in a Committee

publication which will be made available to the general public. Your reply will not be attributed to you to encourage complete candor. For the information of readers, however, I do plan to list in a foreword the names of those who do reply.

I would appreciate your willingness to help on this project. Your cooperation will, I believe, make a contribution in increasing public understanding of the problems facing the nation in Vietnam. It would be appreciated if the Committee could have your reply by April 15. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely yours,


J. W. Fulbright
Chairman

Enclosure

LIST OF QUESTIONS

1. Is the military war being won? If not, why not?
2. Is the political war being won? If not, why not?
3. Do the South Vietnamese people in general support the war? If not, what is their attitude?
4. Why have the Viet Cong been so successful over the years?
5. In your opinion, would substantial additional United States troops and an increase in the size of the South Vietnamese forces change significantly the present military or political situation in South Vietnam?
6. Do you think the American people are getting a realistic assessment of the situation in Vietnam from our military and civilian officials on the scene? If not, why not?
7. What terms of settlement do you think the United States could accept and obtain under the present circumstances? What steps could be taken to bring this about?