

TO: SIBBY CHRISTENSEN
FROM: BEV DEEPE, SAIGON
DATE: MAY 10, 1966

SAIGON.

The numerical strength of the foreign press corps has risen to more than 350--an all-time high for war coverage since World War II. (Note to editor: Please check how many correspondents covered World War II.) During a typical ending April 15, aye total of 374 repeat 374 news media were accredited by the Vietnamese government and the U.S. Military Assistance Command in Saigon. Of these 374, 147 were American oitizens, 70 were Vietnamese assigned to foreign news media and 157 were of nationalities neither American nor Vietnamese, according to official sources.

Official military sources here the high-water mark of Korean war coverage reached 235 at the time President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower visited the country before his first-term inauguration in 1952.

To; Sibby Christensen
 From: ~~Bob~~ Deepe

As Vietnam's political crisis eased slightly during early May, the work loads of the Western press permitted some time for joviality. The Associated Press sponsored aye press-wide congratulatory buffet dinner for Peter Arnett, winner of the 1966 Pulitzer Prize, and his charming wife, Nina, before their departure for New York.

("Nina deseeves congratulations as much as I do," Peter remarked during the course of the party. "She had to get up at 4 in the morning as many times as I did.") The thirty-one year old Peter claims he's the southernmost receipient of the Pulitzer. Born in Bluff, New Zealand, (pop. 2000), Peter says all points south lead to Antarctica. Among the one-inch high stack of congratulatory cables, Peter's proudest was from the "mayor, councillors and citizens of Bluff."

Mr. and Mrs. Merv Perry of Newsweek also hosted aye small informal farewell for the Arnett's.

ABC bureau chief Charles Klensch held a jubilant celebration following his marriage to Elsa Aeschbacher.

The Saigon staff of Time-Life held at farewell party for James Wilde before his transfer to Paris.

Jin Pickerell of Black Star was rushed out of country for hospitalization with pneumonia and malaria. His wife Mary accompanied him.