

U.S. Policy Seems Strange To Publisher From Turkey

United States foreign policy sometimes appears to be a case of preaching one thing and practicing another, a Turkish newspaper publisher said yesterday.

"You bomb North Viet-Nam, yet you work behind the scenes to stop us from bombing Cyprus," Cetin Remzi Yuregir observed. "The educated man-in-the-street in Turkey wonders why you interfere in our business."

While most Turkish newspaper readers are more concerned with their government's new land reform bill than with foreign affairs, Yuregir said, they are talking about establishing warmer relations with Moscow and Peking and exerting more independence from the United States.

Yuregir, 27, and his wife are in Washington on a tour of newspaper plants in eight American and Canadian cities as the guests of the American Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation.

Yeni Adana, the six-page, 2500-circulation daily that Yuregir publishes in Adana, is the winner of the Foundation's first World Press Achievement Award.

The award was established to recognize "those newspapers of the free world, which under the adverse circumstances frequently found in developing countries, are contributing to the social, economic, political and cultural advancement of their peoples."

Yuregir, whose paper was chosen from 36 entries from 24 countries, does not mind having Turkey labeled a "developing country."

"We should face facts," he said, noting that Turkey

shares with many new nations the problem of illiteracy.

Only 25 to 35 per cent of the residents of Adana, a southern city with a population of 230,000, are literate, he said. Women, particularly, cannot read, which is one reason Yeni Adana has no women's section.

His paper is just beginning to feel the impact of a relatively new phenomenon in Turkey—advertising.

"Newspapers have more or less depended on government advertising for revenue, but now we're teaching the stores to advertise, too," he said.

Yeni Adana was founded in 1918 by Yuregir's father and

through the years has suffered economic and legal sanctions and withholding of newsprint by the government, which closed it down for 17 days in 1960.

"But we don't have much trouble with the present regime," the young publisher said. "Police don't confiscate photographers' cameras and there is no more censorship."