

Lippmann Lauds Press For Dominican Coverage

LONDON, May 27 (AP) Columnist Walter Lippmann said today that he felt reports from correspondents in Santo Domingo gave a more accurate account of the Dominican situation than did Washington announcements.

"In Santo Domingo the role of the press has been extremely encouraging," Lippmann told newspaper executives attending the International Press Institute.

"Reporters on the scene and editors back home who printed the news saved that situation from becoming a moral disaster for the United States."

Lippmann expanded on his remarks later while talking to newsmen. He said:

"In reading what the correspondents on the ground reported, I felt I was getting a much more accurate account of what was going on in Santo Domingo than I was getting from the Washington handouts.

"That created an atmosphere of criticism in the United States that has had an influence on policy.

"Santo Domingo may be a political disaster, but it was a triumph for the press."

Lippmann said "Drama arises in foreign affairs from the conflict between the journalist's duty to seek the truth and his loyalty to his country's government — between his duty to report and explain the truth as he sees it and his natural and human desire to say 'my country, right or wrong.'"

The journalist must put truth in the first place or in the second place in his life, Lippmann said.

"Insofar as he could choose the first place, he rises toward — I will not say into, but toward the company of those who taste and enjoy the best things in life," he added.

Lippmann said the "right

of the press to know and the right of the responsible authority to withhold must coexist."

A government has a right to a measure of secrecy in foreign affairs but the public also has a right to know what

its administrators are doing, he said.

An abridge version of Lippmann's speech will appear in the Outlook section of Sunday's Washington Post.