

6/26/72

"It worked in Korea and it would have worked here if it hadn't been for you guys"-  
Gloria Emerson, on leave from NYT, on CBS-TV a.m. news today in most renchendant criticism  
of everything US in VN I've seen or heard.

Happened at Saigon party given by CBS. General reached across table and said this to her.  
She said nothing worked, that only air power temporarily prevented complete collapse,  
that the SVN army is spiritless, purposeless and detached.

No such thing as Vietnamization except as political phrase on Washington. All it means is  
the Americanization of the SVN Army, which means it is crippled and having neither purpose  
nor motive can even survive only because of overuse of overwhelming US Air power.

Asked how could they hold out at An Loc she said they had no choice, anyone can hold out  
when he is cut off, has no other choice, and has such air power defending it, that there  
will never be a time when the SVN army will be able to make it on its own.

Great phrase: The North Vietnamese haven't completed their sentence."

She is the one who exposed the awarding of a medal for valor to a US general who had  
not been valorous, had done nothing to earn it. She said that when the story appeared  
the army regarded and treated her as less than patriotic.

Asked how she felt being back she said, "I don't think I'll ever be completely happy  
again in my own country."

*HW*