

# Military TV Newsmen in Saigon Shifted After Remark on Agnew

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 29 — A news broadcaster for the armed forces television network has been taken off camera and transferred from Saigon to Danang after making a wry reference to Vice President Agnew.

The remark, written and broadcast by Sgt. Hugh Morgan of the Air Force, was considered "editorialization" by the network commander, Col. James Adams.

From Danang, where he is now working on the production end of the local military broadcasting station, Sergeant Morgan recalled that on Dec. 21 the Saigon station had received for broadcast an analysis by Eric Sevareid of President Nixon's Dec. 15 speech on Vietnam.

Aware that Vice President Agnew had criticized the networks for "instant analysis and querulous criticism," Sergeant Morgan took note of the six-day lapse before broadcast of the Columbia Broadcasting System analysis by saying as an introduction: "Following President Nixon's TV speech last Monday, at enough distance not to incur the wrath of Vice President Agnew again, C.B.S. commentator Eric Sevareid talked about the short speech."

## Questioned the Next Day

According to Sergeant Morgan, this is what happened the next morning: "I was sternly handed my copy from the night before. Did I know I had editorialized on the air? Colonel Adams asked. I was aghast. It had never entered my mind. After all he is my Vice President."

Today, Colonel Adams said: "I thought he used a little introduction I thought was editorialization. We don't editorialize."

Colonel Adams, who presides over the United States military's eight-station Vietnam network, which has 176 employees, said Sergeant Morgan's prompt reassignment to Danang "might have been coincident" to the broadcast but "we really did have need of someone in Danang; we shift people quite frequently."

Asked if Sergeant Morgan's reassignment was the direct result of his broadcast, Colonel Adams replied: "It would be more apropos to say it happened at the same time."

According to Sergeant Morgan, "I asked what the reason was [for the transfer] and couldn't get a clear answer." Danang, while not particular-

ly dangerous or unpleasant, bears roughly the relation to Saigon that Minneapolis does to New York.

## Some Viewers Complained

The sergeant said he had heard that some viewers called the station after the broadcast to complain about his remark. He said he had written his introduction seriously, bearing in mind a news broadcast that described how the networks analyzed the President's speech in view of Mr. Agnew's criticisms.

Sergeant Morgan, who is 25 years old, has a journalism degree from the University of Arizona. He taught radio and television at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Tex., and was news director at KTAN, a radio station in Tucson. He hopes to join the military's information network in Washington in February to fill out the remaining two years of his Air Force tour of duty.

## Interviewed Goldwater

After Sergeant Morgan interviewed Senator Barry Goldwater on the military station Dec. 21 while the Arizona Republican was on a visit to Vietnam, a commentator for the English-language daily, The Saigon Post, wrote of him: "The announcer made so much sense it caused me to want to nominate him to run the war instead of wasting his brains in front of a TV camera."

Sergeant Morgan is not the first broadcaster to run into difficulty with the network and Colonel Adams. Earlier this year, Specialist 5 Michael Maxwell said he had been "retired" from the Saigon station after he had complained publicly of military censorship. Another broadcaster, Cpl. Rick Frederickson, who is still with the network, asked to be taken off war news because he felt he could not report freely.

Sergeant Morgan did not complain publicly. His case was made known by friends.

"Perhaps I made a mistake," he said. "I should have said more or nothing at all. It was a harsh lesson but there was something to be gained for it. I'll be a better journalist."

## Satellite Station on Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Dec. 28, (Reuters)—Vice President Chian-kan Yen opened Nationalist China's first earth satellite station today. The station, built by a Japanese company at a cost of \$10-million, can handle 396 telephone circuits and a television circuit.