

U.S. Command in Shift, Bars Filming of Briefing

SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 9 (AP)—The United States military command, in a reversal of long-established practice, refused today to permit the daily war briefing to be filmed by television cameras.

Col. Philip H. Stevens, the command's chief of public information, said he had notified all three networks of the policy change a few weeks ago by telephone.

Sources in the command asserted that newsmen were subjecting the briefers to "out-and-out harassment."

Two spokesmen for the command walked out of the briefing room at the National Press Center because the Columbia Broadcasting System had set up cameras to film the proceedings.

Before leaving, Maj. Chester Hanson of the Marine Corps read a statement saying the command's policy was to refuse to hold briefings in front of movie or television cameras without 24 hours' notice to the chief of the command's public information division.

Major Hanson and the other briefer, Capt. James D'Entremont of the Air Force, then went to a nearby office and answered questions with no cameras present.

Daniel Bloom, acting bureau chief of C.B.S., said he was told a few minutes beforehand that the briefing would not be staged before the cameras. He said it came as a surprise to him.