

Saigon, Explaining Newsmen's Ouster, Charges Distortion

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 8 — The Government elaborated today on its charges against an American correspondent who has been ordered expelled from South Vietnam.

At a news conference Pham Duong Hien, the Government spokesman, listed several points that he said had led the Government to "enforce disciplinary measures" against the correspondent, Donald A. Davis, acting bureau chief for United Press International. He was ordered expelled yesterday and given a week to leave.

Mr. Hien said that on Feb. 26 he was reported by U.P.I. as saying that a Saigon hotel that had been visited by Communist delegates to the Joint Military Commission was subject to the same rules as a military compound. "This is a deliberate and ill-intentioned distortion of my statements," he added.

Mr. Hien said that the news agency had subsequently been "warned of possible punitive measures" if its reporting did not "become more correct and accurate."

On March 4, according to Mr. Hien, it violated "current press ground rules and regulations" by attributing comments by Mr. Hien to an official spokesman when they were not made in his capacity as an official spokesman. In the same dispatch, Mr. Hien said, he was identified incorrectly as the commissioner general for information.

Mr. Hien asserted that the agency had also quoted him as saying that an imprisoned lawyer whose case had drawn the interest of those concerned about political prisoners would be released soon. Mr. Hien termed the report pure fabrication.

Finally, Mr. Hien charged that in recent days U.P.I. had given "ample space to news stories on alleged massacres and tortures of civilian detainees based on Communist sources while neglecting to report about commentaries made by our spokesmen on these stories." He said dispatches were "entirely biased and unbalanced." The news agency and Mr. Davis have denied bias or inaccuracy.