

## Fulbright's Charge

# Pentagon Films Staged 'To Sell' War Policies

### Washington

Senator J. William Fulbright charged yesterday that the Pentagon has been guilty of the same "fraudulent press practices" that CBS News says it has been accused of engaging in in Vietnam.

The Arkansas Democrat, chairman of the foreign Relations Committee, said he had been advised by the head of one of five Pentagon news-film crews in Vietnam that on at least three occasions last year crews had deliberately staged events.

A presidential spokesman disclaimed any White House responsibility, meanwhile, for a memorandum accusing CBS of "irresponsibility" in Vietnam war coverage, including the faking of horror scenes.

Fulbright made his charges in a letter to CBS News commentator Walter Cronkite. In a letter to Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, Fulbright demanded that the Pentagon eliminate the Project in which its film is supplied to commercial television networks.

Fulbright's statement came just one day after CBS broadcast a detailed reply to what it called charges by the Pentagon that it had doctored an account of a 1967 battle in a film that showed a South Vietnamese soldier stabbing a wounded Communist soldier.

Fulbright cited three films in particular, a film showing how local Vietnamese forces with American advisers protect villages, a film showing Vietnamese flying AC-47 gunships at night, and a film showing a Vietnamese and

American troops operating together at a fire support base.

The first, according to Fulbright, portrayed a sweep to weed out Viet Cong. "At the time the film was shot there were no sweeps planned, but in order to satisfy the needs of the film crew one company of regional forces dressed in their battle gear and camouflage helmets spent two hours in a sweep to get news footage for the film program," according to a summary based on information provided earlier this week by Fulbright's informant.

In filming the night air mission, the Fulbright summary said, "when the film crew asked to go up on an actual mission, they were not allowed, but instead a plane was made available to them which flew to a free-fire zone off the coast. The impression given anyone seeing that film, according to our informant, was that this was a combat mission when in fact it was not."

In the fire support operation film, the summary said, "The day after the real action, a company of Vietnamese troops from a fire support base were put on support craft. They went down the river to a nondescript spot and staged a landing with the Vietnamese infantry disembarking from the boats, running through the rice paddies as if the enemy were all around."