

San Quentin's New Policy On Interviews

San Quentin Prison officials yesterday announced a new policy aimed at reducing the number of press interviews of "celebrity" inmates.

Associate Warden James Park said in the future a reporter will be allowed to see any individual inmate from a "lock-up" unit in the institution only once every three months.

Although the order applies to all 180 men currently on lock-up status, Park made it clear that it was directed specifically at the "Soledad Brothers" — George Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette — and at Marin county defendant Ruchell McGee.

According to Park, there has been a lot of "doubling back" by "funny people who I doubt are really reporters" asking to see one of those four men several times.

Park denied accusations by some young reporters of underground publications that he is trying to silence the inmates.

"We will handle all legitimate news gathering requests," he said, "but we just can't handle the volume we're getting now."

He added that the order was aimed less at news interviews than at "socializing" which he said is being done under the guise of reporting.

Park also announced that only one attorney's investigator a day will be allowed to see the four inmates, and charged that some attorneys have appointed "investigators" merely to get individuals in for private chats with the inmates.