

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM  
APO 143, San Francisco, California

MACJ22

11 December 1963

Mr. Paul A. Marsh  
444 N. Madison Avenue  
Pasadena, California

Dear Mr. Marsh:

Thank you for your letter of November 12 inquiring into an alleged atrocity reported by the Associated Press. Your interest in the United States effort to assist the Vietnamese people in their war against the communist insurgent Viet Cong is appreciated.

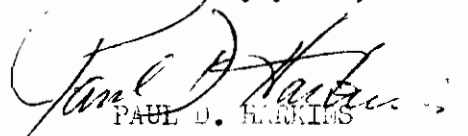
In my headquarters, which keeps track of all aspects of the war, there is no record or knowledge of the particular treatment mentioned in your letter.

While I do not question the authenticity of the Associated Press story, I suggest that your questions regarding the verification of the incident be directed to that news service, which as you know has no official connection with the U.S. military establishment. I also doubt that the Associated Press was implying in any way that the military was involved.

I must also add, that this is the war of the Vietnamese people with which we are assisting by advising in technical, military, and operational matters. I assure you that no advisors have ever been assigned to the so-called secret police.

In summary, I cannot verify your accusation against one of the finest groups of U.S. military men you will find anywhere. This, you can also verify by consulting press clippings in your public library about the caliber of the U.S. serviceman serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

Sincerely yours,

  
PAUL D. HARKINS  
General, United States Army  
Commander