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The Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam has welcomed hundreds of American journalists, even those who had criticized and disagreed.

For the first time, however, it has had to refuse an American journalist, reporter Albert M. Colegrove, a visa to re-enter Viet-nam.

Freedom of the press must not be confused with freedom to publish baseless and slanderous charges without even trying to check them. During his first stay in Viet-Nam, Mr. Colegrove did not only collect and publish baseless wild charges against both Vietnamese and American officials; he willfully refrained from checking them under the pretext that his informants might be discovered and exposed to worst reprisals.

Such a way of reporting the most sensational charges without even trying to check them, cannot lead to correct information.

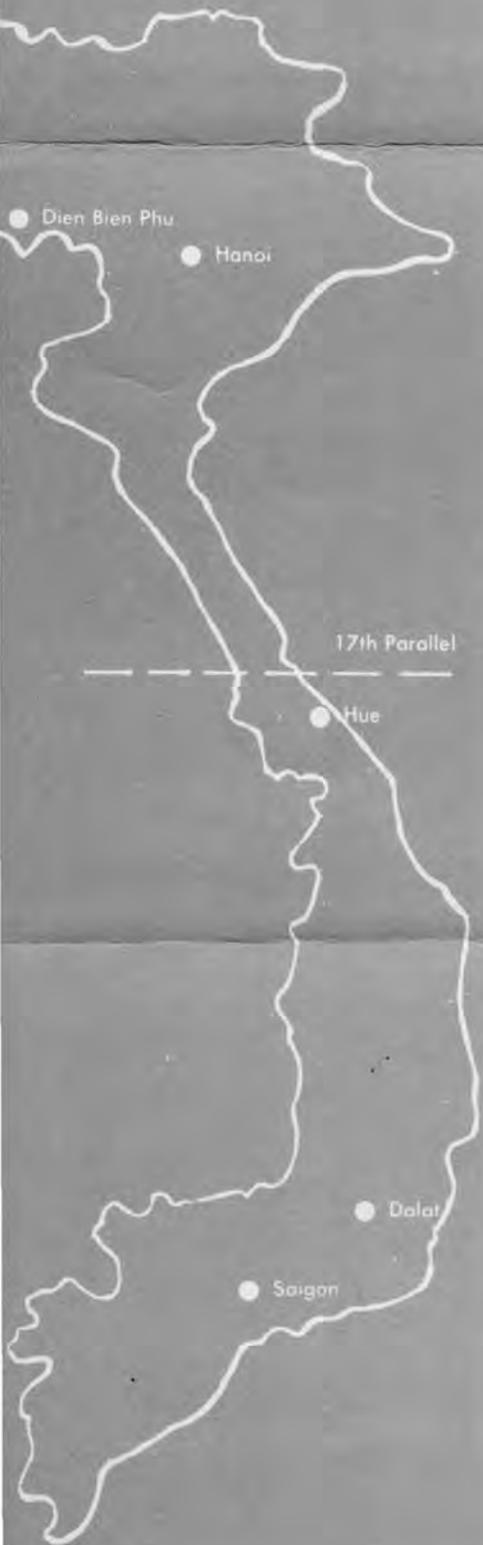
This explains these conclusions of the statement issued on August 14, 1959, by the Chairman of the House Sub-Committee on the Far-East and the Pacific at the end of its hearings on the Colegrove charges:

"The hearings which the Subcommittee has conducted have thus far failed to bear out the charge that our aid program in Viet-Nam is a "fiasco", and that it has been administered in a "scandalous" manner.

"These accusations, as well as specific charges of wrong doing, have not been substantiated to date. Many of these charges have been traced to sources which I, for one, must regretfully consider to be less than reliable.

"In contrast, the testimony which the Subcommittee received from reliable observers who had first-hand knowledge of the aid program in Viet-Nam, and from Executive Branch witnesses, indicates strongly that the aid program in Viet-Nam has been constructive, successful and responsibly administered."

The Vietnamese Government has refused Mr. Colegrove a re-entry visa because it does not want to be hospitable and courteous



to the extent of appeasing those who have unjustly attacked and offended it, harmed the reputation of both Viet-Nam and the United States and unwittingly helped communist propaganda.

The United States itself, France and Great Britain cannot afford in times of war and emergency to be disturbed and hampered in their efforts by the spreading of sensational false news and alarmist rumors. With dangerous enemies on and within its borders, Viet-Nam is precisely in such a case.

Washington, D.C.
October 1, 1959.