CODE

CABLEGRAM URGENT

August 6, 1965
1 - Orig
1 - Yellow
1 - Mr. Fitzgerald
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Flemister

TO LEGAT OTTAWA

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

MORLEY SAFER, FPC.

SUBJECT IS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NETWORK CORRESPONDENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. RECENTLY HE HAS BEEN GIVING PARTICULARLY UNFAVORABLE RADIO ACCOUNTS OF MARINE CORPS ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM. ACCOUNTS HAVE HAD TO DO WITH BRUTALITIES OF MARINE CORPS. ON AUGUST EIVE LAST, SUBJECT APPEARED ON TELEVISION GIVING PARTICULARLY UNFAVORABLE ACCOUNT OF RECENT KILLINGS OF INNOCENT VICTIMS IN SEVERAL SOUTH VIETNAM VILLAGES.

SUBJECT BORN NOVEMBER EIGHT, ONE NINE THREE ONE, TORONTO, CANADA, CANADIAN CITIZEN, SINGLE, EMPLOYED ONE NINE FIVE FIVE TO ONE NINE SIX FOUR CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, JULY TO DECEMBER, ONE NINE FIVE FIVE REUTERS IN LONDON, ONE NINE FIVE THREE NEWS REPORTER, WOODSTOCK CENTENNIAL REVIEW, WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO, CANADA. BUFILES CONTAIN NO INFORMATION IDENTIFIABLE WITH SUBJECT.

IMMEDIATELY CONTACT APPROPRIATE [redacted] FOR ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION RE SUBJECT WHICH CAN BE PASSED TO MARINE CORPS. COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER.

SUCAB.

HCF:RAB

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (detached)

NOTE: In view of foregoing information, Major Benton R. Montgomery, United States Marine Corps Headquarters, requested Liaison Agent expeditiously obtain any info re subject from [redacted]

b3
b7E
b7D
b7D

REC 4 MCI-46
EX 105
AUG 10 1965

VIA CABLEGRAM
AUG 6 1965
9:00 PM

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

163

EX. - 107

DEC 27

[redacted]

August 11, 1965

b3
b7E

4 - Orig & 3
1 - Yellow
1 - Fitzgerald
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Flemister

MORLEY SAFER

The following will confirm information orally furnished to Major B. R. Montgomery, Marine Corps Headquarters, Washington, D. C., on August 10, 1965, by Special Agent Joseph M. Fitzgerald of this Bureau.

On August 9, 1965, a confidential source abroad furnished the following information concerning the captioned individual:

Morley Safer was born Morley Cohn, son of Anna and Max Cohn. His father was an Austrian and his mother was English.

Safer has had extensive background in the news reporting field which has included coverage of the collapse of the European Common Market and service in Algeria covering the first anniversary of Algerian independence. He was editor of "Newsmagazine" a weekly program of the Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC), but resigned that assignment in 1960 in protest of CBC's rehiring of Larry Henderson, a former communist who became anticommunist and who divulged information regarding activities of other CBC employees. Other employees similarly resigned.

HCF:jkm jkm
(8)

Orig & 2 furnished to ~~ONI~~ Marine Corps by Liaison 8/11/65. to Major Montgomery

NOTE: Subject has been giving particularly unfavorable radio accounts of Marine activities in South Viet Nam primarily having to do with killings of South Viet Namese people, burning of South Viet Nam's villages, etc. Major Montgomery, referred to above, requested Bureau's Liaison Agent ascertain, if possible, any information concerning subject through Bureau's [redacted] Information in letterhead memorandum is result of our check with [redacted] through Legat, Ottawa. The confidential source referred to above is [redacted]

b7D

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

F178

54 AUG 25 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

4-3 (Rev. 12-14-64)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trot b6
Tele
Holm b7C
Gandy

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☒ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☐ TELETYPE

SD-05
URGENT 8-9-65
TO DIRECTOR
FROM LEGAT OTTAWA NO. 363

MORLEY SAFER, FPC.

[redacted]

no record in Bufiles as Morley Cohn

b3
b7E

REBUCAB AUGUST 6 LAST.

b7D

CHECK [redacted] DISCLOSED SAFER, BORN COHN, SON OF ANNA AND MAX COHN. FATHER AUSTRIAN AND MOTHER FROM UNITED KINGDOM. HAS HAD EXTENSIVE NEWSPAPER BACKGROUND INCLUDING COVERAGE FOR CBC POLISH NATIONALIST FEELINGS AGAINST SOVIETS 1962, COLLAPSE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET AND SERVED IN ALGERIA COVERING FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE. FORMERLY WAS EDITOR OF NEWSMAGAZINE, WHICH IS CBC WEEKLY PROGRAM BUT RESIGNED THAT ASSIGNMENT 1960 IN PROTEST CBC'S REHIRING OF LARRY HENDERSON, FORMER COMMUNIST WHO BECAME ANTICOMMUNIST AND DIVULGED INFORMATION RE ACTIVITIES OTHER EMPLOYEES CBC. NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHED TO ABOVE [redacted] AS OTHERS DID LIKEWISE AND SAFER HAS NOT OTHERWISE COME TO ATTENTION. NO OTHER INQUIRIES BEING MADE UACB IN VIEW SENSITIVE NATURE SAME.

major B. R. Montgomery of Maine Corps Hq. advised of this 8:45 a.m. 8/10/65

[redacted]

b6
b7C

EX. - 107

5 - Flaggler

RECEIVED: 6:25 PM JG

cc Flemington

3rd [redacted]

REC [redacted]

b3
b7E

F. advised 8/6/65

10 AUG 13 1965

Letterhead memo, 8/11/65, HeF:jrm

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

b6
b7C

FBI

Date: 8/20/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (62-0) (C)

RE: MORLEY SAFER
CBS CORRESPONDENT
IN VIETNAM
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed to the Bureau for possible dissemination are six copies of LHM setting forth the mailing of tapes to General WESTMORELAND and President KY, both in Vietnam, by a "patriotic citizen", who protested the airing of a news broadcast by MORLEY SAFER over the CBS network in the U. S. recently. The tapes are of the MORLEY SAFER broadcast, which the sender complained was destructive of morale in the American war effort in Vietnam. One copy is furnished to Los Angeles and New York because those cities have major offices of the CBS organization.

b7D

[redacted] is source of data in LHM. He asked concealment because of [redacted]

[redacted] provided the information in a phone call to SA [redacted] Brownsville Resident Agency, from Cincinnati, Ohio, [redacted] RAYMOND BURR of the Perry Mason TV series [redacted]

b7D

San Antonio is conducting no investigation.

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Enc.6) U. C. Wick
1 - Los Angeles (Enc.1) (Info)
1 - New York (Enc.1) (Info)
2 - San Antonio
(1 - 66-1620)

1 copy to each ACSI, ~~ONI~~, OSI, [redacted]
8/24/65 JMF/hab

REC- 24

b3
b7E

EX-102

25 AUG 30 1965

TWC/dte
(7)

Approved: _____ Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per

53 SEP 3 1965

ADD. DISSEMINATION SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

San Antonio, Texas

August 20, 1965

MORLEY SAFER
CBS CORRESPONDENT IN VIETNAM

A source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised on August 16, 1965, [redacted] wherein the male complainant, identity unrecalled by source, stated his displeasure at a recent news broadcast by Morley Safer, CBS correspondent in Vietnam. b7D

The caller regarded the broadcast coverage of an attack on a Vietcong village by U. S. troops as a broadcast "destructive to morale" of U. S. forces in Vietnam. The coverage by Morley Safer purported to be on the efforts of U. S. troops in ridding the village of Vietcong soldiers. None of the latter were evident, having apparently fled the scene. Instead the coverage of the event by Morley Safer indicated or suggested that U. S. forces in Vietnam did not hesitate to kill or maim innocent native women and children.

Source advised that the caller declared he had made a tape of the instant broadcast and had sent forward a copy to General Westmoreland and to President N. Guyen Cao Ky, both in Vietnam. His purpose, the caller said, was to request that Morley Safer be expelled from Vietnam, because of his destructive coverage of events there.

The caller identified himself [redacted] failed to make a note of his name, and has since forgotten his identity except for the fact that he seemed to be a patriotic citizen complaining of the above described broadcast. b7D

[redacted] b3 b7E

MORELEY SAFER
CBS CORRESPONDENT IN VIETNAM

Source stated his purpose in making available the above information was to advise American authorities in Vietnam of the simultaneous sending of the instant tapes to both General Westmoreland and President Ky. The latter, he felt, might misinterpret the appearance over American stations of the obviously prejudiced coverage of Vietnam battle tactics of American troops by Morley Safer, CBS correspondent.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-107-02

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 8/10/67

FROM : LEGAT, HONG KONG [redacted] (RUC)

b3
b7E

SUBJECT: MORLEY SAFER
IS - CH

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Enclosed herewith is one copy of an article from the 8/14/67 issue of "Newsweek" magazine.

At the 8/1/67 Staff Meeting of the American Consulate General, Hong Kong, it was stated that a team of Columbia Broadcasting System employees, one of whom was the subject, had just completed filming current scenes in Communist China.

The filming was done with the consent of the Chinese Communist Government and persons who talked with some of the newsmen in Hong Kong said that they saw no sign of disruption while in China.

[redacted] in Hong Kong, noted that the team was composed of SAFER, who is Canadian, one British subject, and two Frenchmen. He said that MORLEY had been taken out of Saigon by FRANK STANTON, head of CBS, for deliberate distortions of the news against U.S. participation in Vietnam.

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b7C

This is being brought to the Bureau's attention inasmuch as it is likely that the subject has access to the U.S. and is in a position to influence U.S. public opinion.

No further action being taken at Hong Kong.

5 - Bureau (Enc. 1) ENCLOSURE
(1-[redacted]
(2-Legat, Ottawa)(Info.)

REC 27
EX 101

[redacted] b7D

b3
b7E

1 - Hong Kong
DAG:enm
(6)

Enc (Xerox)
Copy to Legat: Ottawa (2)
by routing slip for
☐ action
8/ /67
by [redacted]

16 AUG 15 1967

NAT. INT. SEC.

EXP. PROC.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

57 AUG 21 1967

CBS

Safer (right), Peters in China: Mao's the word

Through the Looking Glass

Could an American TV news team talk its way into Communist China as tourists, wander the country for 21 days interviewing everyone from Red Guards to elementary-school children, then slip back out through the Bamboo Curtain without arousing the suspicions of the Red Chinese? Unlikely as it may sound, that's just the tale CBS's Morley Safer was telling last week when he arrived back in New York after one of the most enterprising—and implausible—adventures in the annals of American electronic journalism. What's more, Safer had 10,000 feet of uncensored color film to dramatize his story—the material for the first documentary ever shot by a U.S. network in Red China. CBS will air the hour-long show next Tuesday night.

The China show is the latest in a string of coups scored by the courageous 35-year-old Safer, a Canadian who won the Overseas Press Club Award last year for recording the burning of a Vietnamese village by lighter-wielding U.S. marines and stirred controversy last spring with a deeply personal antiwar documentary on Vietnam.

Agent 007: As Safer recounts it, his latest beat was accomplished with surprising ease. Anticipating trouble if they applied for visas as newsmen, Safer, who holds a Canadian passport, and freelance British photographer John Peters, posed as a couple of bon vivants interested in archeology and recording their travels on film.

That line seemingly satisfied the Chinese, who admitted them on a $1,500 package tour advertised in Parisian newspapers. Harder for the team to camouflage were their four cameras, including a massive 25-pound Auricon sound rig complete with shoulder brace, and a suitcase stuffed with film. "We didn't want to play Agent 007 and hide it in a false bottom," says Safer. "So we hoped for the best, and we lucked out."

But passing as tourists for the benefit of their Chinese guide and still getting the story on film posed another problem. So the pair contrived a charade, posing Peters as a foolish eccentric with a compulsive need to take pictures and Safer as his reluctant assistant. "When we came upon children singing at the Great Wall," explains Safer, "Peters would beg me to hold the microphone for him while he ran the camera. I would get angry and say, 'I didn't pay all this money to come here and help you take pictures'." The argument got so heated, in fact, that the guide suggested Safer humor Peters by holding the microphone. "Then I would do stand-up interviews," says Safer, "and tell where we were and what was happening." The unwitting guide translated the interviews.

Bad End: This Alphonse and Gaston routine was hard to sustain, but their cover was threatened seriously only once. In Shanghai, which bristles with anti-Western feeling, Safer says he was hauled before a people's court on charges of being a "revisionist" after he contradicted a claim by his guide on a tour through an industrial exhibit that glass-grinding machines could not be obtained abroad because of the American embargo. On the contrary, Safer told the guide, countries like Canada, Britain and France all but ignore the embargo to trade with China. "But they said I must admit my errors or come to a bad end," says Safer, who feared the worse. "So I admitted my errors, we all read a little Mao and that was that."

For all the Maoist thought-control, Safer found the Chinese people remarkably satisfied. "While Mao has certainly been deified," he says, "his subjects have witnessed the miracle: you don't have to starve in China any more. And if reading Mao is the way to keep the miracle, then I would read Mao."

On July 28, the team finally crossed the Lowu Bridge leading to the British crown colony of Hong Kong. There was a final moment of tension as Chinese customs officials eyed the film cans distributed among their clothing before approving their exit. "We were pouring sweat," says the correspondent, "and it

b3
b7E

Hong Kong
China

wasn't because of the 110-degree heat." Finally past the last hurdle, Safer was able to wire his bosses in New York: "We have just stepped back through the looking glass."

The Riot Beat

In the midst of the Detroit riots, WJBK-TV reporter Jack McCarthy was interviewing a man on Twelfth Street when a Negro youth smashed a bottle at the newsman's feet, gave him three minutes to clear out his crew and then threw a punch. In East Harlem, an ABC team had to flee their station wagon when an angry crowd rushed them and set the car afire. And in Newark, NBC cameraman Jerry Yarus followed National Guardsmen so closely that they used his car as a shield as they blasted away at buildings. Yarus crawled underneath, catching all the action on film.

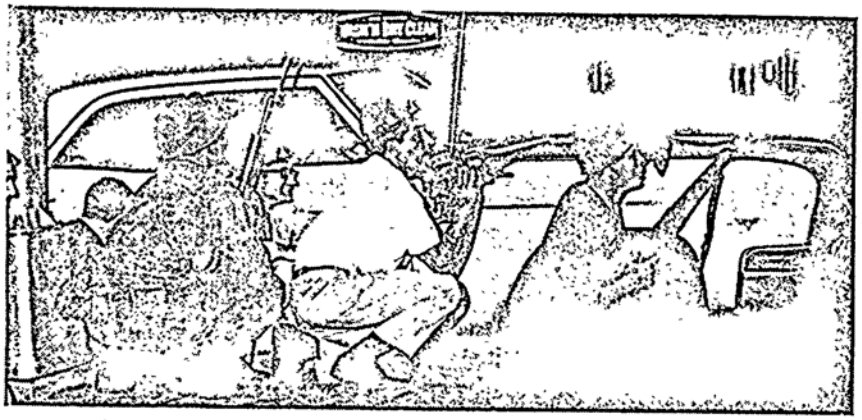
Covering a riot is a dangerous assignment for any reporter, of course, but it can be especially perilous for TV newsmen—strung together with cables and weighed down by heavy equipment. "A newspaper guy can huddle in a doorway or get it over the phone," says one network correspondent. "But we've got to be in it to get it."

Jumpy: Indeed, although there were no serious injuries, TV men were sometimes getting it from both sides during the recent riots. "In Vietnam, I was worried about getting shot by the VC," says ABC producer Ed Needham. "But in Newark I was worried about getting shot by the cops." New Jersey police and guardsmen were so jumpy, in fact, they ushered newscars through barricades at rifle point. Several newsmen were detained for pressing too hard, and one, WNBC's Gabe Pressman, was even arrested at gunpoint and charged with disorderly conduct when he tried to cross a police line to deliver film to a runner.

Being in the thick of things poses unavoidable problems for TV hands. Not only does the pressure of constant deadlines often preclude a long hard look, but short, punchy film clips can distort more than they illuminate. "You can get too close to it," says Tom Bryson, news director of Baltimore's WJZ-TV, which covered the Cambridge, Md., riot. "That TV screen is only 21 inches across, and when it's all filled with flames it looks like something big when often it's not."

During the recent outbreaks, many TV stations went out of their way to add balance to their riot footage. WCBS-TV in New York ran a half-hour show casting doubt on official claims that outside agitators were actively involved in the Newark rioting. In Detroit, ABC scouted up glimpses of Negroes who had refused to join the rioting. And CBS followed a 21-year-old Negro veteran of Vietnam as he sadly sifted through the ashes of his charred house.

While stations and networks strove increasingly for a well-rounded story, they also tried to still criticism that what they reported inflamed more than it informed. Detroit stations purposely kept their crews away during early stages of the riot, honoring the concern of the state's Civil Rights Commission that coverage would only draw potential rioters into the fray. Once in the vortex of action, cameramen kept their lenses capped until there was something to shoot and tried at night to use fast film that does not require glaring lights.



CBS

TV cameraman in Newark: 'A newspaper guy can huddle in a doorway'

Inevitably, however, there were a few instances in which accuracy was sacrificed for speed—with unfortunate results. After Detroit's WXYZ-TV ran a false report that a patrolman was killed, fellow officers rushed to tell his wife before it was discovered he was only wounded. Another Detroit station, WWJ-TV, alarmed thousands when it aired an anonymous—and erroneous—phone tip that rioters were invading suburbia.

However carefully TV handles riot news, the medium's power to beam the sound and fury right into the home is bound to have a jolting effect. "We wonder what all the bang-bang does for the viewers," said CBS correspondent John Laurence, a veteran of Vietnam as well as Detroit. "Is it TV entertainment or is it information? Is it reality or is it not? If you're looking for some meaning, well, that's just not given."

1 - [redacted]

b6
b7C

MAILED

MAR 14 1975

March 14, 1975

NAME CHECK

MORLEY SAFER
Born: November 8, 1931
Toronto, Canada

In response to the telephone request of [redacted] of your agency, on March 13, 1975, no investigation has been conducted of Safer by the FBI. However, in August, 1967, in connection with another matter, the statement was made by [redacted] in Hong Kong, British Crown Colony, that Safer, on an unspecified date, had been taken out of Saigon, Vietnam, by Mr. Frank Stanton, head of the Columbia Broadcasting System, for deliberate distortions of the news against U.S. participation in Vietnam. [redacted]

b6
b7C

b3
b7E

Morley Safer

EX-10

REC-8 [redacted]

b3
b7E

Original and 1 - ERDA
Request received 3/13/75

21 MAR 18 1975

VIM:ysc (4)

NOTE: [redacted] stated Safer is to film a visit to an AEC facility for presentation on "60 Minutes."

b6
b7C

Assoc. Dir. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. ____
Comp. Syst. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Files & Com. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Plan. & Eval. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Legal Coun. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director Sec'y ____

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This reply is result of check of FBI investigative files. To check arrest records, request must be submitted to FBI Identification Division. Fingerprints are necessary for positive check.

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

MAR 25 1975

4-22 (Rev. 1-28-75)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Section

_____, 19___

- [ ] Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.
- [ ] Service Unit, 4654 JEH-FBI Bldg. b6
- [ ] Forward to File Review b7C
- [ ] Attention
- [x] Return

Supervisor Room 224 JEH Ext.

Type of References Requested:

- [ ] Regular Request (Analytical Search)
- [ ] All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- [x] Subversive References Only
- [ ] Nonsubversive References Only
- [ ] Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

- [ ] Restricted to Locality of _____
- [ ] Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
- [ ] Buildup
- [ ] Variations

Subject Safer, Morley
Birthdate & Place 11-8-31
Address

Localities Canada, NYC.

R# _____ Date 3/13 Searcher Initials 512

Prod. _____

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
+		b3
NP	94-4-925-757	b7E