
Westmoreland Versus CBS Collection

Mandeville Special Collections Library

Mandeville Special Collections Library

The UCSD Libraries

9500 Gilman Drive

University of California, San Diego

La Jolla, California 92093-0175

Phone: (858) 534-2533

Fax: (858) 534-5950

URL: <http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/speccoll/>

Copyright 2005

The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Cravath, Swaine & Moore

Title: Westmoreland Versus CBS Collection,

Date (inclusive): 1966 - 1983

Extent: 14.00 linear feet(14 records cartons)

Abstract: The WESTMORELAND/CBS COLLECTION contains many of the joint exhibits entered into the record during the libel suit of General William Westmoreland against the Columbia Broadcasting Company in 1985. Included are photocopies of interview transcripts, notes, memoranda, cables, CIA records, books, and newspaper articles. The collection is arranged in numerical order in one series: JOINT EXHIBITS.

Repository: University of California, San Diego. Geisel Library. Mandeville Special Collections Library.
La Jolla, California 92093-0175

Collection number: MSS 0155

Language of Material: Collection materials in English

Access

Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information

Not Available

Preferred Citation

Westmoreland Versus CBS Collection, MSS 0155. Mandeville Special Collections Library, UCSD.

Publication Rights

Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

Historical Background

On January 23, 1982, the Columbia Broadcasting System aired a CBS Reports documentary entitled "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception," which suggested inaccuracies in United States estimates of North Vietnamese troop strengths between 1966-1968. General William C. Westmoreland, who commanded the U.S. Military Assistance Command in Vietnam between 1964 and 1968, sued CBS, several CBS employees, and former CIA analyst Samuel Adams for libel on September 13, 1982. Westmoreland argued that the documentary defamed him because it asserted that he had led a conspiracy to manipulate intelligence on enemy troop sizes.

The trial was held in federal district court in New York City and lasted four months. During the trial, both sides introduced prodigious amounts of evidence into the record. On February 19, 1985, both parties agreed to dismiss the case.

PROVENANCE

The WESTMORELAND/CBS COLLECTION was acquired by the UCSD Library in 1985 from UCSD Political Science Professor Samuel Popkin. Popkin served as a consultant to CBS attorneys Cravath, Swaine, & Moore of New York during the suit. Complete sets of the Westmoreland versus CBS exhibits are available at the libraries of Yale University and the University of California, Berkeley.

Scope and Content of Collection

The WESTMORELAND/CBS COLLECTION contains photocopies of a large selection of joint exhibits presented to the court. The exhibits are arranged numerically and organized in one series: JOINT EXHIBITS.

The JOINT EXHIBITS are described in the official "Exhibit List," which also provides the specification of objections and court notations for each item. Items included in UCSD's collection are marked on the left margin of the list.

Included in the JOINT EXHIBITS are notes by George Crile of CBS and Samuel Adams; interview transcripts; memoranda and cables between government officials and the United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam (USMACV); photocopies of Central Intelligence Agency records; military assessments; correspondence; and photocopies of books and newspaper articles.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Adams, Sam, 1933-1988

Crile, George

Westmoreland, William C. -- (William Childs), 1914- -- Trials, litigation, etc

CBS Inc. -- Trials, litigation, etc
Tet Offensive, 1968
Trials (Libel) -- New York (State) -- New York
Trials (Slander) -- New York (State) -- New York
Documentary television programs -- United States
Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975 -- United States -- Sources

JOINT EXHIBITS

box 1, folder 1	Exhibits List
box 1, folder 2	JX 1 - JX 46B
	Note
	Folders 2-38
box 2, folder 1	JX 46C - JX 104
	Note
	Folders 1-45
box 3, folder 1	JX 105A - JX 159A
	Note
	Folders 1-40
box 4, folder 1	JX 160 - JX 209
	Note
	Folders 1-43
box 5, folder 1	JX 210 - JX 311A
	Note
	Folders 1-39
box 6, folder 1	JX 311A - JX 315
	Note
	Folders 1-25
box 7, folder 1	JX 315 - JX 318C
	Note
	Folders 1-25
box 8, folder 1	JX 319 - JX 325A
	Note
	Folders 1-24
box 9, folder 1	JX 326A - JX 363
	Note
	Folders 1-50
box 10, folder 1	JX 363A - JX 506
	Note
	Folders 1-148

box 11, folder 1	JX 506A - JX 636 Note Folders 1-92
box 12, folder 1	JX 636 - JX 641B Note Folders 1-15
box 13, folder 1	JX 641B - JX 939 Note Folders 1-55
box 14, folder 1	JX 940 - JX 1418 Note Folders 1-34