CBS' Morley Safer to Discuss His New Book on Vietnam War



Morley Safer, who went to Vietnam for CBS in 1964, will discuss his new book on this week's "Booknotes." The interview will air **Sunday, May, 6, at 8:00 pm ET/ 5:00 pm PT.**

CBS NEWS correspondent Morley Safer clearly remembers receiving his 1964 assignment to cover the growing American involvement in the Vietnam War.

In his new book, "Flashbacks: On Returning to Vietnam," Mr. Safer recalls the telephone conversation he had with his boss about the assignment.

"'I want you to go to Saigon,' [his boss] said.

'For how long?'

'As long as there are stories. Three months maybe. Six at the most. American troops will be out in six months.'"

His boss was wrong. Mr. Safer ended up serving two tours of duty covering the American military commitment in Vietnam. He will be this week's guest on "Booknotes," C-SPAN's weekly author interview program, to discuss his new book. The interview airs **Sunday, May 6, at 8:00 pm ET/5:00 pm PT.**

While his book examines the conditions in present-day Vietnam, Mr. Safer also recounts his experiences when he first arrived in Saigon:

"Nothing prepared me for what I found in Saigon," he writes. "Both the physical and psychological terrain was being prepared for a colossal American intervention. Machismo was in the air.

"American military advisers—there were no full scale units [in 1964]—were beginning to strut their stuff. They were giving up their role of bystanders and sideline coaches. The war was ceasing to be a Vietnamese show."

Mr. Safer, 58, began his career in journalism with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He joined CBS News in 1964 and went from covering European politics in the network's London bureau to covering the Vietnam War in the network's Saigon bureau.



Mr. Safer's reporting from Vietnam won him several awards. A 1965 story he did on the torching of a Vietnamese village by U.S. soldiers created controversy and shock in the United States. It was reported that President Lyndon Johnson threatened to get Mr. Safer fired for the report.

For the last 20 years, Mr. Safer has worked on CBS' News weekly magazine program, "60 Minutes." ■

—Christopher Maloney

A Look Ahead

Sunday, May 13

1:00 pm ET/10:00 pm PT
Rita Klimova, the Czech ambassador to the United States, discusses "Czechoslovakia: Its Problems and Its Potential" during a Women Achievers luncheon sponsored by the National Press Club.

7:30 pm ET/4:30 pm PT
President **George Bush** delivers the commencement address at Liberty University, in Lynchburg, Va. Rev. Jerry Falwell, chancellor of the university, will also speak.

10:00 pm ET/7:00 pm PT
Alexander Dubcek, chairman of the Czech Parliament, delivers the commencement address at American University's School of International Service.

Monday, May 14

8:00 pm ET/5:00 pm PT
C-SPAN's "America and the Courts" program examines oral arguments heard by the Supreme Court that day on *the constitutionality of the federal law outlawing flag* burning.

Saturday, May 19

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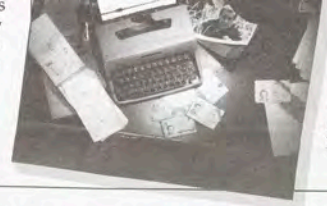
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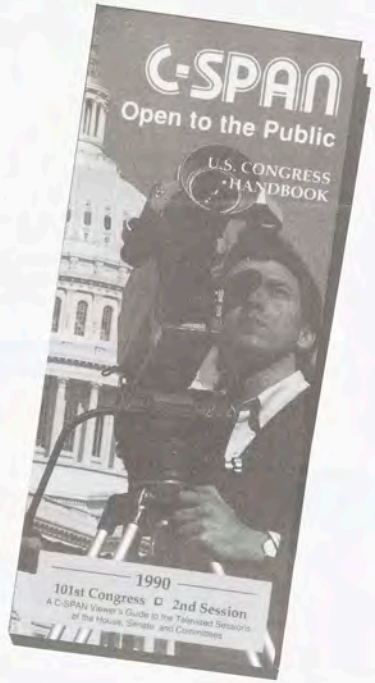
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Saturday, May 19

6:00 pm ET/3:00 pm PT
Prince Philip of England, international president of the World Wildlife Fund, will discuss the world's ecology during a National Press Club luncheon.

Sunday, May 20

6:00 pm ET/3:00 pm PT
The Institute for the Advanced Study of Immunology and Aging sponsors a town hall meeting.

Monday, May 21

8:00 am ET/5:00 am PT
John Chancellor, NBC News commentator, responds to viewer questions.

Saturday, May 26

6:00 pm ET/3:00 pm PT
Entertainer **Pearl Bailey** addresses the National Press Club.

Saturday, June 9

6:00 pm ET/3:00 pm PT
Former President **Gerald Ford** honors achievement in the field of reporting at the "Ford Journalism Awards" sponsored by the National Press Club.

—Kim Arbogast