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HELMS AND FULBRIGHT INTERVIEWED

WALTER CRONKITE: "At a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today, CIA Director Richard Helms explained his letter complimenting a newspaper editorial critical of the Committee Chairman, Senator Fulbright. And to reporters, Helms said this."

HELMS: "I was just simply saying that it was a mistake to have signed this letter, and I realize that it was a mistake, which I regret. And I've apologized."

REPORTER: "Did you draft the letter, sir?"

REPORTER: "What were the circumstances?"

FULBRIGHT: "Well, the letter was prepared by an assistant and was submitted to him along with a number of other personal letters, as distinguished from, you know, business letters -- ~~course~~, he's been recently appointed, and he simply signed it, as he said, without focusing upon this whole significance of it."

"The circumstances, as described by Mr. Helms certainly go a very long way to excuse a mistake, I mean, anybody can make a mistake, and I'm sure he's going to be very careful not to make another one of a similar nature."

REPORTER: "Senator Morse called for his resignation. Do you favor any move in that direction?"

FULBRIGHT: "I don't think I think it that drastic. And I believe he'll be very careful about these matters in the future."