

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
10 January 1985

INVESTIGATION/>JENNINGS: The staff of the Federal Communications Commission <

>CIA>today denied a request from the Central Intelligence Agency for the FCC to punish ABC News. The CIA had charged that ABC had violated the fairness doctrine and distorted the news in a report we broadcast last September. In turning down the CIA request, the FCC staff said, 'The commission is not prepared to judge the wisdom, accuracy or adequacy of particular news reports.' And said also that the CIA failed to provide any extrinsic evidence that ABC knowingly distorted news programming. ABC News president Roone Arledge said tonight, 'We are particularly gratified that the ruling recognized the importance of the First Amendment and free and robust news coverage.'