

January 21, 1953

**Airgram No. 68 from Swift to Admiral Stevens,
AMCOMLIB, with attachment 'Joint Agreement on
Principles Governing Programs Broadcast by Radio
Liberation'**

Citation:

"Airgram No. 68 from Swift to Admiral Stevens, AMCOMLIB, with attachment 'Joint Agreement on Principles Governing Programs Broadcast by Radio Liberation'", January 21, 1953, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Released by the Central Intelligence Agency on October 16, 2019 in response to Mandatory Declassification Review request EOM-2018-00930. Contributed by A. Ross Johnson.
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/290899>

Summary:

AMCOMLIB official Swift provides Chairman Stevens with a draft of Radio Liberty program guidelines agreed between his office and the émigré Coordinating Center for the Anti-Bolshevik Struggle

Credits:

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AIRGRAM NO. 68

January 21, 1953

ADMIRAL STEVENS
AMCOMLIB
NEW YORK

REFERENCE AIRGRAM 17 JANUARY 5 ATTACHING LATEST DRAFT FROM
OFFICE MANNING WILLIAMS ON JOINT AGREEMENT PRINCIPLES
GOVERNING PROGRAMS PARA WILLIAMS ADVISES ME DELAY IN THIS
MATTER HAS BEEN DUE TO LACK OF APPROVAL FROM THE CENTER
BUT THAT HE EXPECTS THIS APPROVAL MOMENTARILY AND THAT ONLY
CHANGE ANTICIPATED IS THE ONE HE HAS INDICATED IN ITEM 4,
PAGE 2. PARA 1 AM SENDING IT AT THIS TIME ^{SINCE} ~~AND~~ IF THIS IS
INDEED ONLY ANTICIPATED CHANGE WE CAN CABLE ANY MINOR
CORRECTIONS WHICH FINAL EMIGRE APPROVAL INVOLVES.

SWIFT

42 / 78 - 02824 / 7 / 40

See 2586
Camm
Mann

OPS:LG

CC: Mr. Manning Williams

JOINT AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING PROGRAMS
BROADCAST BY "RADIO LIBERATION"

1. The basic political line is the political platform of the Coordinating Center of the Anti-Bolshevist Struggle, namely:

- a. Impeccable struggle against the Communist dictatorship until its complete destruction.
- b. Putting into effect the principle of true self-government - first proclaimed in Russia by the February Revolution - as the primary condition opposed to attempts to restore absolutism or to establish any kind of dictatorship.
- c. Recognition of the incontestable right of all peoples residing in the territory of the Soviet Union to determine their fate freely by means of democratic expression of their will, as well as real guaranty of this right of self-determination.
- d. Reservation to all citizens of full political and civil rights without distinction as to sex, nationality and religion.
- e. Recognition of freedom of conscience and of the right to disseminate religious doctrines.
- f. Liquidation of the exploitation of man by man, by party, or by state; subordination of state policy to the interests of the free development of human personality, and elevation of the material and cultural living standard of the peoples.
- g. Destruction of the system of terror and oppression. Destruction of all concentration camps and of all forms of forced slave labor. Liberation of political prisoners. Repatriation of the repressed and of victims of mass deportations.
- h. Prohibition of a policy of vengeance after the overthrow of the dictatorship.
- i. Liquidation of the kolkhozes and of the system of forced deliveries. Transfer of the land to ownership by the peasants. Reservation to them of the right to choose freely the forms of land ownership and of land utilization.
- j. Liberation of creative activities and cultural life of the country from all forms of state compulsion.
- k. Liquidation of the aggressive foreign policy of the USSR and decisive repudiation of the acts of that aggression.

2. The radio's main theme will be liberation -- liberation from the tyranny of Bolshevism and one-party rule, from poverty and suffering forced upon the people by the Bolshevik regime, and from the threat of war imposed by Bolshevik foreign policy and ideology.
3. The specific geographical areas to be covered, the particular audiences aimed at, and the languages to be used will be determined by the Central Bureau of the Coordinating Center (or its appropriate representative) in consultation with the Radio Advisor of the American Committee. This will be based on obtaining the maximum propaganda effect with the technical facilities at hand. The political advisability of fairly dividing an appropriate amount of program time among the various nationalities represented in the Coordinating Center is also recognized.
4. Because of the heterogeneous nature and widely varying views of the many organizations forming the Coordinating Center, a determined effort must be made to avoid presenting the partisan views of any particular groups or individuals on controversial subjects, except within the framework of special programs intended for this purpose, such as, for example, a round-table discussion.
5. It is likewise agreed that the radio must take a non-determinate position on those questions (such as inter-nationality political relationships) which can be determined only after liberation by the democratically expressed will of the people.
6. The broadcasts must not contain material offensive to the legitimate susceptibilities of any nationality or tending to create differences among the peoples of the USSR.
7. The broadcasts will avoid encouraging any premature outbreaks of overt resistance to the Soviet regime which could only result in needless sacrifices. They will, however, encourage the people to hope and plan for the day of liberation.
8. The broadcasts, and especially those aimed at the occupation forces, will encourage Soviet citizens to escape and join the forces of the Coordinating Center in the common struggle. They will not encourage escape when there is needless danger involved.
9. The broadcasts will not contain matter offensive to the German Government or to the German people.
10. Members of the armed forces of the USSR will be appealed to as the natural representatives and defenders of their peoples. It is of the utmost importance that they consider themselves the ones who must deliver their peoples from the present bondage and from the dangers of a new world war.

Some feeling among emigrants that this should be deleted.

Isn't the element of danger absent now?

a any free world gov.

11. The organs of the Bolshevik Party and of the MGB and MVD will be treated in broadcasts as oppressors of the people. Care must be taken to indicate that many individual members are helplessly caught in the party-police net and are only awaiting the day when they can redeem themselves by joining the liberation struggle.
12. The broadcasts will make no promises, demands or offers which are not capable of fulfillment.
13. The broadcasts of Radio Liberation, which is under the sponsorship of the Coordinating Center, will be the first large-scale common effort on the part of all the peoples of Soviet Russia in the struggle for the overthrow of Bolshevism. In view of this fact it is of vital importance that these broadcasts be of the highest quality and effectiveness. Every effort must be made to produce programs which will win for the radio station - and for the Coordinating Center - the confidence and the support of the peoples behind the Iron Curtain.

With this end in view, it is understood that the Program Department of the radio will obtain the services of the persons best qualified for such work by virtue of their intellectual capacity; their experience in journalistic and propaganda work; their intimate knowledge of present conditions in the Soviet Union, of the desires and aspirations of the population, and of the nature and functioning of the apparatus of the present dictatorship; and their understanding of the nature and functioning of democratic society.

14. This Joint Agreement may be amended as necessary by mutual concurrence of the Central Bureau of the Coordinating Center and the Radio Advisor of the American Committee.