

May 13, 1964

**Memorandum from Howland H. Sargeant,
'References to RLC in The Invisible Government'**

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Summary:

AMCOMLIB President Sargeant circulates draft comments on references to RL in the forthcoming book The Invisible Government.

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AMCONFIDENTIAL DRAFT

Memorandum

To: Members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Staff at all RLC locations

From: The President

Subject: References to RLC in The Invisible Government

On June 24 of this year Random House is scheduled to publish a book co-authored by David Wise and Thomas B. Ross entitled The Invisible Government. Serialization of this book in a popular American magazine may take place before its publication by Random House.

The Invisible Government deals with the intelligence community in the United States. One chapter in it is concerned with certain broadcasting organizations, including RLC. It states that these organizations receive daily policy direction from the State Department and that they receive funds and take orders from the CIA.

Other than these allegations as to the control of RLC and the source of its funds, the text dealing with the Committee and RL does not contain very much that we should complain about or to which we should take exception.

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Some of the material about RLC was gathered by the authors from conversations with press and public relations executives in New York Headquarters and from RLC's printed literature.

Because the contemplated serialization and publication of this book is likely to create considerable general interest and to inspire queries both from the staff and outsiders about RLC's operations, here are some comments pertinent to the principal points about RLC in it:

1. RLC is a private, non-profit, non-governmental organization.

All of its funds come from private sources, principally from foundations. By a ruling of the U.S. Treasury Department made in April 1952, contributions made to RLC are deductible by the donors in computing their taxable net income. The foundations which support RLC have requested that RLC refrain from publicizing their support of its activities. RLC has always honored these requests.

2. RLC is in business to promote the interests of the American people and those of the free world. The officers and members of RLC's Board of Trustees who established RLC and who today are responsible for its policies and management believe that these

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interests can be served by a private organization like RLC in many effective ways denied to organizations controlled by the U.S. or other Governments. RLC seeks policy guidance from appropriate U.S. governmental agencies to help it do its job. RLC does not receive any policy direction nor does it take orders nor receive funds from any government agency.

3. The budget of RLC is not made a matter of public record because RLC does not solicit funds from the general public and because detailed knowledge of its budget would only serve the interests of the forces which it was created to combat. RLC's budget, however, is not "classified", and it is prepared to furnish financial statements certified by its independent auditors whenever it is necessary or desirable to do so.

4. All of RLC's activities, including its radio broadcasts to the USSR, are conducted openly. RLC's secrets are the secrets common to any bona fide organization which must protect certain plans and programs from unfriendly inspection if it hopes to be successful and effective.

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This memorandum should be discussed with key members of your staff before the book's publication or serialization. The salient points of it should be brought to the attention of all staff members immediately that serialization or publications takes place.

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