

July 11, 1962

**Memorandum by Stan Ward, 'Policy Guidance for RL
Broadcasts from Spanish Base'**

Citation:

"Memorandum by Stan Ward, 'Policy Guidance for RL Broadcasts from Spanish Base'", July 11, 1962, 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/290955>

Summary:

A CIA IOD official recommends that an attached draft guidance [page 3 is missing] on RL's transmitters in Spain be substituted for an RL Policy Position Statement of June 14, 1962.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Blavatnik Family Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

Chow

5
107 July 11, 1962

11 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President, AmComLib
ATTENTION: Assistant to the President
SUBJECT: Policy Guidance for RL Broadcasts
from Spanish Base

1. The attached draft guidance is transmitted to you with the recommendation that it be substituted for the proposed Policy Position Statement submitted by Munich under date of 14 of June. Not only does the proposed PPS attempt to cover too much territory in one document, but the first section is now out of date and the policy guidance section does not take into account the official reaction to the radio's strike reporting.

2. While we recognize that our draft is perhaps more sweeping than would be palatable under normal conditions, we feel, nevertheless, that nothing less restrictive would achieve the purpose it is intended to serve--namely, the protection of RL's position in Spain.

3. We will welcome your views.

STAN WARD

Attachments

81 F16

42178-2910/17/8

D R A F T

INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR RADIO LIBERTY

BROADCASTS FROM SPAIN

General Policy

1. Radio Liberty programs destined for broadcast over its transmitters in Spain must be written and produced in the light of the following paramount considerations:

a) The extreme sensitivity of the Spanish regime to any material concerning Spain which, in its view, can be interpreted as adverse to its interests.

b) The fact that Radio Liberty's continued presence in Spain is wholly dependent upon the good-will of the host government, and upon the radio's adherence to its formal undertaking to respect the interests of the Spanish State in its programming. (Paragraph 16 of Basic Agreement).

2. Because the Spanish regime is itself the sole judge of whether given material that may be broadcast about Spain over Radio Liberty facilities there may be construed as damaging to its national interests, the radio must lean over backward to exercise a maximum of restraint and the greatest care in its programming of the Spanish transmitters.

3. The protection of Radio Liberty's tenure in Spain must take precedence over all other considerations, including matters of substantive editorial and programming nature, even though this may tend at times to hobble the radio in carrying out its programming mission to counter distortions and omissions of Soviet media as they may concern developments in Spain. Toward this end, the strictest possible construction must be placed on the injunction in Section VII of the Radio Liberty Policy Manual against the inclusion in its broadcasts from Spain "of any material harmful

-2-

to the interests of the host governments which might embarrass the radio in the conduct of its relations with the host governments."

4. Thus, it is incumbent upon Radio Liberty not only to avoid broadcasting from Spain material obviously reflecting on the Spanish Government, its officials and policies or on Spanish institutions, but also to refrain from reporting or commenting upon, from there, any development or situation in Spain in a manner which might conceivably be interpreted by officials as adverse to that country's interests. Admittedly, this policy will apply an unwonted and unwanted program straitjacket, as well as call for the most delicate editorial tight-rope walking so far as its Spanish transmissions are concerned; but Radio Liberty has no recourse if its investment and continued operating effectiveness in Spain are not to be jeopardized.

5. As a means both of protecting its position in Spain and of preserving its credibility with its listeners in the Soviet Union, Radio Liberty should use its Lampertheim transmitters only (as distinct from those in Spain) for the bulk of necessary coverage of Spanish developments and most particularly for the broadcast of those programs concerning Spain regarded as likely to offend Spanish officialdom.

6. Radio Liberty should take every reasonable precaution open to it to forestall a Spanish official demand for the pre-censorship of its broadcasts from Spain. Further guidance will be forthcoming should such a demand be pressed.

Procedures.

1. The Radio Liberty Division in Munich is responsible for the selection, preparation and control of the content of all programs intended