

March 16, 1950

**Memorandum for Mr. Horace Nickels, 'Support for
Radio Broadcasting Program to Satellite Nations'
[Approved for Release, March 2009]**

Citation:

"Memorandum for Mr. Horace Nickels, 'Support for Radio Broadcasting Program to Satellite Nations' [Approved for Release, March 2009]", March 16, 1950, Wilson Center Digital Archive, CIA Mandatory Declassification Review, #C01441003. Obtained and contributed by A. Ross Johnson. Cited in his book 'Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.' <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/114334>

Summary:

Office of Policy Coordination requests information – negative and positive – from the State Department on conditions in Eastern Europe that could be used in Radio Free Europe broadcasts.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Blavatnik Family Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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2009OP 72 JOB 78-2912
BOX 20 FOLDER 179

- EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs (c)
EO 12958 3.5(c)

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16 March 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. MORRIS NICKLES
Office of Eastern European Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT: Support for Radio Broadcasting Program to
Satellite Nations

ENCLOSURE: Types of Information Desired

1. Pursuant to your conversation of 15 March with [redacted] an outline is forwarded herewith which presents specific types of information desired for propaganda use. The outline does not propose to be restrictive in subject matter, but is meant to represent specific suggestions on what would be of interest.

2. It should be emphasized that even though we desire information that can be used to ridicule the Communists and their rule, it would also be desirable to receive information of a positive nature. In relation to Communist leaders and their administrations, it will be necessary either to undermine them slowly or give them a build-up before delivering the knock-out punch. Consequently, we desire information which is of credit to leaders as much as we need that which is unfavorable to them.

3. It is not the plan to compare Satellite life to that in the United States; instead, it is the plan to make comparisons of the happier, more pleasant, freer days in the Satellite area to today's conditions when here life is subordinated to Communist Party demands.

4. Reports are desired which show how the rule of Communist regimes has affected the daily life of the Satellite peoples-- not only adversely but also favorably. Specific points which should serve as examples of the types of information desired are listed in the enclosure to this memorandum. Your suggestions on other subject matter which you would consider useful will be welcomed.

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5. It is proposed that such material be forwarded immediately; therefore, if the Department has information now which it would deem of interest to this project, it is requested that I be so advised. It is hoped that some of the information the Department may be able to supply will be of sufficient importance and timeliness to warrant cable transmission to Washington from the field.

6. It is understood that the Department will release for use in broadcasts only material which will not be so sensitive as to jeopardize foreign missions or personnel. Department reports used for propaganda broadcast purposes will be sterilized as to source.

7. will act as points of contact for this material.

cc:

HKO

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TYPES OF INFORMATION DESIRED

1. Economic:

- (a) The quality and quantity of food, clothing, cigarettes.
- (b) The health of the people (is food readily available, or are there widespread cases of malnutrition?).
- (c) Material which shows that Communist promises have or have not been fulfilled, for example on wage increases.
- (d) Description of the position of the small businessman; texts which show any restrictive regulations.
- (e) Reports on new public construction, for whom it is ostensibly built and by whom it is actually and ultimately used.
- (f) Retail price schedules.
- (g) Regulations regarding the rationing of food, clothing, etc.
- (h) Reports which refute government statements that economic plans have been fulfilled.
- (i) Evidence of city water shortages which can be traced to Communist misadministration.
- (j) Confirmed reports of impending devaluation of currency.

2. Educational:

- (a) The actual purpose of schools; the number of teachers as compared to the number of students; the use of school children to check the political inclinations of their parents.
- (b) The content of confidential circulars to teachers telling them points to stress with students.

3. Political:

- (a) Songs which children, youth, women's organizations, workers, and soldiers are required to sing.
- (b) Pamphlets showing how Communists impose their doctrines.
- (c) Translation of Soviet and local Communist posters.
- (d) Instructions given to party agitators, block watchers, janitors, chauffeurs, railway men, school principals.

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- (e) Material showing how rapidly land is being collectivized and revealing anti-Kulak acts or propaganda; also material showing peasant opposition to this.
- (f) Reports about civilians being forced to evacuate their homes (without compensation) to make room for official offices. The exact date and the location in these instances are required.
- (g) Reports on kidnaping of children from their parents.

4. Religious:

- (a) Reports on anti-religious material in books, pamphlets, posters party instructions (where available, the full texts in the original language.)

5. Labors:

- (a) Material revealing the speed-up (Socialist competition) imposed by Communists on labor unions; material showing how labor has become enslaved; pictures and reports relating to voluntary labor; material which shows the difference between free and Soviet-inspired unions.
- (b) Activities in which trade unions are engaged.
- (c) Lack or presence of safety equipment in factories.

6. Cultural:

- (a) Comparisons of the popularity of American and Soviet films shown in Satellite countries.
- (b) Reports on Satellite sports festivals in which the Soviets compete; disputes which may arise between Satellite teams and Soviet teams over the outcome of athletic contests. Is there evidence that the Soviets enter only those events they are quite certain to win?

7. Sociological:

- (a) Material which describes Satellite home life, good or bad, as it has been adapted to meet Communist Party demands.

8. Other:

- (a) The unpublished news (the type censored out of State publications): good sharp jokes, amusing stories, anecdotes being told about Communist leaders.
- (b) The street conversations.

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- (2) Profiteering for self or friends.
 - (3) Callous dealings with public or followers.
 - (4) Contact with the West, ideological, social, or intellectual.
 - (5) Previous public statements subsequently recanted.
- c. Ostensibly praiseworthy deeds that would lend themselves to cynical interpretation.
- d. Personal information:
- (1) Telephone number, automobile license, home address.
 - (2) Details of personal appearance: color of hair and eyes, conspicuous features, height and weight, physique, clothing.
 - (3) Nervous habits: tics, chain-smoking, repeated gestures, whistling (what tunes?).
 - (4) Hobbies.
 - (5) Special talents: music, sleight-of-hand.
 - (6) Interest in sports.
 - (7) Preference in food, drink, tobacco, clothing.
 - (8) Pets (kind, names).
 - (9) Bank accounts (how many, size, where).
 - (10) Description of home and/or office.
 - (11) Membership in organizations, clubs.
 - (12) Favorite jokes, gestures, phrases, songs, books, articles of clothing.

In other memoranda will be submitted the names of persons on whom personality information is desired. However, any information of the type immediately above which could be forwarded voluntarily would be appreciated.