

April 12, 1954

CIA Criticism of American Committee for Liberation Mission Statement

Citation:

"CIA Criticism of American Committee for Liberation Mission Statement", April 12, 1954, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Obtained and contributed to CWIHP by A. Ross Johnson. Cited in his book Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, CIA mandatory declassification review document number C01434011. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/114479>

Summary:

CIA official Thomas Braden, now responsible for Radio Liberty, criticizes American Committee for Liberation (AMCOMLIB) president Stevens' enclosed mission statement as overemphasizing émigré politics and neglecting communication with the people of the Soviet Union.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Blavatnik Family Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

C01434011

77-02824
41

~~SECRET~~

File 1.4

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 08-Feb-2011

12 April 1954

10

EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT: Policy Paper on AMCOMLIB

**REFERENCE: DD/P Memo to CIO, dated 1 April 1954,
Subject: New Statement**

1. Although I understand that Francis Stevens had begun writing such a policy paper as you mention in reference memorandum, I am informed by the State Department that it was never completed and that there is no policy paper now being considered for submission to NSC.

2. I note that this lack of a policy paper should be considered at the time of our proposed review of the AMCOMLIB situation with the State Department.

3. AMCOMLIB has now submitted to me a statement of mission (attached), which Admiral Stevens has been in the process of preparing for the last eight weeks. I have serious objections to the mission as defined by the Admiral in that I think the cart is placed before the horse. "To weaken and eventually disintegrate the power and influence of the Soviet distatorship . . ." is in itself perhaps a large mouthful to swallow, but to do so "through the overt development and application of those existing and latent democratic forces in the emigration from the USSR . . ." seems to me to verge on the ridiculous. I should think that the statement of mission ought to give priority to the idea that the purpose of the Committee is to reach the Russian people in Russia by any means possible, including the means of emigration. I intend to discuss this statement of mission with Messrs. Barbour and Berry, and their assistants, at the State Department this week and at that time to press for the above-mentioned policy paper from State.

4. Do you want to take the time to sit in on these talks or shall I merely keep you closely posted?

CIO:TWB/eh
Orig & 1 - DD/P
1 cc - IO
1 cc - IO
1 cc - CIO
1 cc -

(signed) THOMAS W. BRADEN

THOMAS W. BRADEN
Chief

International Organizations Division

~~SECRET~~

Attachment
AMCOMLIB Statement of Mission

37

C01434011

AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR LIBERATION FROM BOLSHEVISM**INTRODUCTION**

The following series of guide lines define the mission of the American Committee and its operating objectives, which will normally remain constant in a situation short of war. The operating objectives flow from the mission, and are not stated in order of priority, nor is there any intention in their listing to establish emphasis. Determination of emphasis and priority as among objectives will be indicated periodically through the Committee's budgeting process.

MISSION

To weaken and eventually disintegrate the power and influence of the Soviet dictatorship, primarily within the USSR, through the overt development and application of those existing and latent democratic forces in the emigration from the USSR which are willing to work together in practical anti-Soviet activities. To this end, as well as in preparation for crises preceding and following the overthrow of the Soviet regime, the Soviet emigration will be encouraged to become a constructive and cohesive force, friendly to the United States, rather than a disruptive and divisive one.

OPERATING OBJECTIVES

1. To assist the emigration to direct its unique anti-communist capabilities against the USSR by providing moral and material support for emigre-sponsored anti-bolshevik activities.
2. To direct propaganda into the USSR which will:
 - a. Identify aims of emigration with those of enslaved Soviet peoples;
 - b. Bring about a common understanding of the true nature of the regime as inimical to the real interests of the people, and to inspire a common purpose in opposition to it in ever-increasing numbers of Soviet citizens;
 - c. Keep alive the spirit of resistance within the USSR;
 - d. Encourage dissensions and strife within the structure of Soviet power;
 - e. Exploit the tensions in the struggles for power within the Soviet dictatorship;
 - f. Identify and exploit the contradictions and difficulties inherent in the Soviet regime and its policies;

C01434011

- g. Induce defections, both psychological and physical;
 - h. Expose the fundamental inconsistencies, obsolescence, impracticability and failures of Marxism-Leninism;
 - i. Encourage reliance on traditional indigenous spiritual concepts;
 - j. Stimulate independent thinking and a spirit of free inquiry;
 - k. Present specific democratic processes as an attainable and attractive alternative to the communist dictatorship;
 - l. Develop basic concepts of justice and human rights for the protection of the individual against the power of the State;
 - m. Present realistic and practical alternatives to passive submission to the Soviet system.
3. To accumulate information on, understanding of, and experience with the emigration, its structure, leadership, capabilities, attitudes, and aims.
 4. To deprive the Soviet regime of possibilities of exploiting division and confusion in the emigration.
 5. To encourage the emigration to produce both current and long-term critical analyses of the Soviet regime and its policies, Marxism-Leninism, and the structure of Soviet power.
 6. To assist emigre scholars from the Soviet Union to engage in continued activity in their specialized fields to keep alive in the emigration the intellectual forces being suppressed in their homeland.
 7. To elicit from the emigration useful information concerning the Soviet Union and its peoples.
 8. To provide scholarly and sound explorations of the perspectives of the post-Soviet period and the means of attaining an orderly and lawful transition from Bolshevism to a democratic order.
 9. To develop in the emigration an appreciation of the priority of common anti-bolshevik activities over all divisive issues.
 10. To raise the prevailing standards of emigre interrelations to a higher level of ethical responsibility.
 11. To assist the emigration to keep alive within its own ranks the spirit of resistance to Bolshevism.
 12. To provide opportunities for diverse elements of the emigration to work together in order to develop patterns of harmonious cooperation.
 13. To facilitate contact and communication between the various elements of the emigration with a view to furthering mutual understanding and integration.

C01434011

14. To help the emigration to understand and utilize those elements of Western ways of thought and methodology in which they now lack experience.
15. To develop qualities of leadership in individual emigres and to provide means for emigres to gain experience in assuming responsibility for individual and group work.
16. To assist the emigration in expressing its protests against Bolshevik despotism and its representatives.
17. To assist the emigration in winning the moral support and understanding cooperation of the peoples of the non-Soviet world in the anti-bolshevik struggle.