

July 30, 1954

Memorandum from Thomas W. Braden for Inspector General [of the CIA], 'The President's Committee on International Information Activities: Report to the President'

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Summary:

CIA official Thomas Braden restates American Committee for Liberation's redefined mission which puts American staff and not exile leaders in charge of exile broadcasters.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: INSPECTOR GENERAL

VIA: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT: A. The President's Committee on International Information Activities: Report to the President (Pages 19-41).

B. TS #78325

In compliance with the recommendations of the President's Committee on International Information Activities, the mission and operating objectives of the American Committee have been redefined. The new mission and objectives were approved by the Department of State in a memorandum dated 12 July 1954 and accepted by the Office of the Director, Central Intelligence Agency, on 23 July 1954.

RADIO PROGRAM

Prime emphasis has been placed on the development of Radio Liberation. The physical facilities of Radio Liberation at its German base have been expanded and stabilized at a level consistent with both the technical and political considerations involved. Today, with the power of seven 10 kw and two 3 kw transmitters using 18 high frequencies, Radio Liberation directs its broadcasts to Soviet occupation forces in East Germany and Austria and to all of European USSR, including the Caucasus, and to Soviet Central Asia. Broadcasts are beamed to these areas 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in Russian and in most of the other major languages of the Soviet Union. A limited expansion program has been approved for fiscal year 1955, during which Radio Liberation will attempt to launch pilot operations from Formosa and from Spain. A base in Formosa will expose to Radio Liberation attack the important strategic areas of the Soviet Far East. A Spanish base will offer better coverage of the prime target, Western USSR. Additional power will be added if justified by the results of pilot operations. Tentative plans for the future envision a site in Pakistan to reach the industrialized areas east and south of the Urals and to blanket Soviet Central Asia.

With the dissolution of the Coordinating Center in June of 1953, Radio Liberation was freed from interference and control of emigre politics and

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politicians.

Nonetheless, the voice of Radio Liberation remains true to its basic concept. The programming staff is composed largely of recent Soviet escapees who write and articulate all of the radio's output. It is this staff which enables Radio Liberation to speak in a voice and from a point of view which is most understandable to the peoples within the USSR. At this writing, Radio Liberation is a hard hitting, direct, tactical weapon in our propaganda warfare arsenal.

The effectiveness of Radio Liberation is attested to by monitoring reports from the target areas and by the statements of recent defectors and escapees. During daylight hours, even in December, the worst month, Berlin monitors reported an average intelligible reception of about 60%, and Vienna monitors 85%. The summer months show a considerably higher level of intelligibility, reaching 100% on occasion at both locations. An embassy official in Moscow heard a Radio Liberation broadcast on 3 February 1954. Another American official heard the radio in Kiev on 21 March 1954. Similar evidence has trickled in from Tahrin, Meshed, Istanbul, Cyprus, Helsinki, and Odessa.

Unsolicited favorable comment on Radio Liberation's program content and personality have been received from several persons in Western Europe. Of greater interest are the reports of defectors. A young Soviet Army defector, _____ reported that, while stationed with the Soviet occupation forces in East Germany, he heard Radio Liberation broadcasts which led to his decision to defect in December 1953. Soviet Army _____ who defected in the summer of 1953, also said he had heard Radio Liberation broadcasts in East Germany. A Soviet of Armenian origin, picked up in Turkey in September 1953, heard Radio Liberation in the Caucasus. A Soviet Army _____ who defected in early 1954, reported that he had listened in East Germany to VOA, Radio Liberation, BBC, Radio Rome, Radio Madrid, and others. "Personally", he said, "I liked Radio Liberation best, since it knew better than all the others what life was like in occupied Germany." (Quote from Reuters dispatch of 9 March 1954.) A Balt who defected through East Germany in September 1953 stated that he had heard Radio Liberation many times between April and August 1953; he also stated that he knew of Soviet occupation personnel who listened. A Russian who fled from Hungary in February 1954 said he had listened to Radio Liberation many times in Hungary, and that many of his friends also listened. He termed Radio Liberation "the most effective of all Russian-language broadcasts."

Four recent high level defectors from the ranks of the MVD made statements bearing on the broadcasts of Radio Liberation. _____ said that he had heard Radio Liberation broadcasts "clearly" in Vienna early in

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1954. He also had evidence that other Russians listened to the broadcasts. Former MVD [redacted] quoted in an article appearing in LIFE magazine on 5 July 1954 had this to say: "Your radio is a good beginning. The Voice of America is doing a good job. Practically every Soviet officer has a radio and almost all of them listen. If Radio Liberation, with Russian exiles doing the broadcasting, had more power and could be heard more easily in Russia, it would be even better. A radio like this, run by Russian exiles, is bound to have more influence in Russia than, say, the BBC or the Voice of America which speak for foreign countries." [redacted] and [redacted] both believe that the Soviets are more afraid of operations directed to reach and influence their people than operations of purely intelligence character, and that propaganda operations should be intensified. They stated that although radio programs are being jammed, the small portion of such programs that gets through justifies the continuation and expansion of such efforts.

RESEARCH PROGRAM

The American Committee is supporting and gradually developing the Institute for the Study of the History and Culture of the USSR. Located in Munich, with small branches in New York and Paris, the Institute serves four purposes: (1) to provide an opportunity for emigre scholars from the Soviet Union to engage in continued study in their fields of specialization, (2) to elicit from the academic forces of the emigration valuable information concerning conditions within the Soviet Union, (3) to provide scholarly and sound studies for future conditions and the means of attaining those conditions, and (4) to make important contributions to the cold-war struggle against the Soviet regime. The Institute extends a number of research fellowships to Soviet emigres in Europe and in the United States, sponsors research conferences in Munich and in New York, and publishes the results of its research.

A strict evaluation of the Institute's activities will be conducted during the first quarter of fiscal 1955 to determine its future course of development.

EMIGRE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

With the dissolution of the Coordinating Center, the American Committee has withdrawn its financial support of emigre groups and has abandoned the concept of uniting the emigration politically through American Committee initiative. If the emigration, on its own initiative, achieves political coalescence and requests American Committee support, further policy guidance will be sought from the Department of State and the Operations Coordinating Board.

The American Committee's immediate objectives regarding the organized Soviet emigration are spelled out in its proposal for a Working Alliance (approved by the Department of State, January 19, 1954). In brief, it sidetracks political unity and proposes cooperation on the basis of practical work. More importantly it drops emigre participation in American Committee activities from the level of equal partnership to an advisory function, and makes no provision for the support of individual groups. Should this effort fail, the American Committee will either have to scrap the emigre program entirely, or relegate it completely to the role of a minor and a long range objective.

(signed) THOMAS W. BRADEN

THOMAS W. BRADEN
Chief
International Organizations Division

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Orig & 1 - Inspector General (thru C [] & C [] & DD/P)

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