

December 3, 1956
**Rethinking the Role of Free Europe Committee and
Radio Free Europe**

Citation:

"Rethinking the Role of Free Europe Committee and Radio Free Europe", December 3, 1956, 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 MORI 1426203, 1376101, 1376034.
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/114744>

Summary:

CIA/International Operations Division routing slips raise questions about an attached Free Europe Committee (FEC) draft dated November 12 on the FEC's role in the wake of the Hungarian Revolution and note that the FEC [in New York] did not forward to Radio Free Europe Munich certain CIA guidances on broadcast policy.

Credits:

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English

Contents:

Original Scan

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553

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM
UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
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6			

Remarks:

*See Encl's with
NO, we do not. In
fact, we have been informed
that Gen. Sittlerberger did not
authorize transmission of our agreed
guidelines to manual. We do have
an file the daily Western guidelines*

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS

DATE

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

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FORM NO. 237

Replaces Form 20-4
which may be used.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE 11-13-2017

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP			DATE
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REMARKS:			
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FROM:			
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FORM NO 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 3-4
WHICH MAY BE USED.

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142

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Draft

12 November 1956

Revised Policies and Plans for FEC Operations

Recent developments require a new look at the activities of the Free Europe Committee and indicate the need for some major revisions and some additional action. Some of these are set forth below:

1. The U.S. objective with respect to Central Europe ought to be clearly defined. If, as there seem to be some indications, it is U.S. policy to work for a group of neutral buffer states from the Baltic to the Black Sea, this ought to be clearly spelled out and made known to those who are responsible for conducting psychological and political action programs targeted at Central and Eastern Europe.

2. The degree to which the West by radio broadcasts, leaflet operations and otherwise, encourages the captive peoples to resist or change the present regimes while at the same time the West is not willing or able to assist them in a situation like that in Hungary, presents serious questions which ought to be realistically thought through.

3. The present programs of Radio Free Europe and the Free Europe Press which are principally based on a concept of encouraging the people to make demands on the regimes for changes which will benefit the people and weaken the controls of communist regimes over them, should be carefully examined. For example, the degree to which we are encouraging the Polish people to make further demands on the Gomulka regime must be very carefully defined so that we will not be confronted with a situation in Poland like that which is put down in a blood-bath in Hungary.

4. The desirability of continuing balloon operations into Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia should be very carefully examined.

5. A formula for utilizing recent Hungarian escapees must be worked out. This will present problems with respect to the present Hungarian National Council.

6. There is a serious problem of morale within the new Hungarian escapees who believe that the West let them down. A real effort should be made to deal with this problem.

7. The Free Europe Committee's role with respect to the several thousand new Hungarian escapees should be defined.