

November 23, 1956

Interim Policy Guidance for Free Europe Committee

Citation:

"Interim Policy Guidance for Free Europe Committee", November 23, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Obtained and contributed to CWIHP by A. Ross Johnson. Cited Ch3 n31 in his book Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, CIA mandatory declassification review document numbers MORI 1376090, 1376091, 1426223.
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/114784>

Summary:

Cord Meyer forwards to Frank Wisner a copy of "Interim Guidance for RFE" dated November 20 [a final revision of previous drafts] that was transmitted to the FEC on November 21. [FEC copy available in the Hoover Archives.]

Credits:

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: NOV 2006

EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

23 NOV 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

VIA: Chief, [Redacted] Staff

SUBJECT: FEC Interim Guidance

This memorandum is for information only.

The attached interim guidance, concurred in by [Redacted]
office, was transmitted to FEC on November 21, 1956, by OO
TWX.

[Redacted]

CORD MEYER, JR.
Chief

International Organizations Division

Attachment:
Letter to Walter from [Redacted]

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~~SECRET~~

63

11b

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(C)

Sent by OO TWX 11/27/56
~~In reply refer to 11-834~~

Dear Walters:

I am sure you will agree that it is desirable for us to
note known to you our best current thinking on how we see the
effect of recent events on IIR activities.

I hope that you will find the attached memorandum on this
subject helpful. If you find that there are essential points
in which you differ, would you be good enough to let us know.

The situation of jamming, particularly in Poland, also
raises questions in our mind as to the necessity of the addi-
tional facilities in Lisbon. We should therefore like to ask
you to review this project and give us your recommendations in
the light of the new situation.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature box]

11b

~~SECRET~~

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2007

20 November 1956

EO 12958 6.2(c)
(S)

Internal Guidance for FBI

Events of the past several weeks have produced changes which significantly affect FIC operations. These include:

1. A situation in Hungary resulting from the spontaneous revolution, put down in a blood bath by Soviet troops, in which the Soviet Union now virtually occupies the country; and with a Soviet communique for all practical purposes now governing the country; a puppet government without substance of popular support; a violently anti-Soviet and anti-Communist population passively resisting by means of a general strike; guerrilla warfare in some areas; tens of thousands of dead and wounded; a people who requested western assistance at the height of their rebellion against the Soviet Union and who are now, at the least, disappointed that such assistance did not arrive and, at the worst, may become almost as anti-Soviet as they are anti-Soviet as a result; deportations of Hungarian youth and others to Soviet Russia; and in which the attempts of the United Nations to aid the Hungarian people appear to be largely unproductive.

2. A "new" Hungarian emigration in the West, numbering some 20,000-35,000 and increasing daily.

3. A substantial loss of prestige on the part of the Soviet Union in the Free World, including neutralist areas and groups, and among many communist parties.

4. A situation in Poland in which, from all that can be judged at this moment, the Polish people appear to be willing to support the Gomułka regime for the time being, at least. It is reasonable to assume that such support in the long term will be directly proportionate to the degree in which

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successful in meeting the demands of the people for greater freedom from Soviet control and for greater individual freedom and economic improvement.

5. A significant decrease in the jamming of Western broadcasts, including RFE into Poland, which is assumed to reflect official Polish policy. A significant decrease in jamming of Western broadcasts to Hungary, probably because of the general situation in that country, rather than the result of Soviet or Rdar regime policy.

6. Reported unrest, particularly on the part of students and young intellectuals in the other Satellites.

7. An increased state of alert and readiness of local security units in Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria as a result of nationalist pressures heightened by developments in Hungary and Poland.

For the time being, therefore, until the course of events in the Satellites may be more clearly understood, the following guidance for FEE is set forth below:

General:

We should be guided by an objective of breaking up or weakening what has been up to now the monolithic unity within the Soviet dominated power bloc of Eastern Europe.

We should continue to carefully encourage evolutionary changes toward democratization and self-determination, while at the same time avoiding steps which might provoke Soviet repression in other Satellites. We do not want to incite violent unrest in Poland or in any other Satellite (and particularly not in East Germany, where the Soviets plan to remain at any cost).

Hungary:

1. A major information effort should be organized by FEE among the "new" emigration. This should include:

a. An inventory of leadership and action potential with emphasis on youth, student, worker, peasant and intellectual groups, able and willing to continue the fight for the Hungarian people from the West;

b. An audience analysis of reaction (1) to RFE broadcasts; (2)

and (3) to Hungarian exile leaders and activities in the West;

c. Other information likely to be useful in future RFE operations or in refining present activities;

d. Information of interest in the United States generally as to activities in Hungary and the other Satellites.

2. No action should be taken by RFE which is considered likely to provoke further bloodshed.

3. RFE/Hungary should refrain from tactical advice of any kind.

4. RFE should refer as seldom as possible to the Kadar regime, but make clear that responsibility for decision making in Hungary at this time is borne by the USSR.

5. RFE should confine itself generally to the balanced reporting of factual news, with a minimum of editorial comment on local Hungarian events. Full coverage should be given to the efforts of the West to assist the Hungarian people, including action in the United Nations; efforts by the West in furnishing medical, food, clothing and other assistance; assistance to Hungarian refugees in the West; activities of recent Hungarian refugees in mobilizing public opinion and other activities for carrying on the fight for the freedom of the Hungarian people from the West; Western reaction to the events in Hungary; the defections from the Communist parties in the West; all statements by international figures and organizations condemnatory of Soviet repression in Hungary (the Colombo Fowers Statement, for example,

calling for Soviet troop withdrawal); and the like. Broadcasts to Soviet troops should be continued.

6. 

7. 

8. Material assistance to refugees should continue through FECS in cooperation with other relief and welfare agencies.

9. Plans should be developed to exploit fully in the Free World the reversion to Stalinism and the naked colonialism of the Soviet Union in Hungary via all FECS assets, including FECS, FEP and NFE.

10. Plans should be developed to utilize the effective people in the "new" emigration by FEP, FECS, and NFE.

11. The relationship of the effective people in the "new" emigration to present Hungarian National Council, the representation of the "new" emigration in the ANKH, as well as their participation in other multi-national exile organizations are matters of priority importance. Steps should be taken to give priority support and emphasis to activities in which the effective elements of the "new" emigration play a part, while at the same time, disengaging from the counterproductive elements of the "older" emigration. (This should be the subject of full discussion and careful negotiation because of a number of complex problems involved.)

12. Attention should be given to the problem of disaffection, discouragement and general anti-U.S. attitude among Hungarian refugees.

13. Particular attention should also be given to correcting the wide spread impression now being given credence in the press that the Free Europe Committee provoked the Hungarian revolution, or at least, implied that Western support for same would be forthcoming. This should be appropriately coordinated with the Crusade.

Poland

1. The situation in Poland in which we judge the "thaw" and "liberalization" are proceeding about as far and as fast as is possible under the circumstances calls for careful handling by FEU.

2. FEU's Polish Desk's "temporary amnesia" with the Gomulka regime, while at the same time carefully and indirectly through factual news reports encouraging liberalizing forces now in motion to produce concrete results, seems to us to be the correct policy line, at least for the time being. FEU should continue to avoid tactical advice to the Polish people.

3. Because of the reduction of jumping in Poland, and because of the need for avoidance of any kind of provocation in a tense situation containing the same ingredients which produced the Hungarian revolution, FEU should not

[redacted] until further notice.

Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania

1. FEU should continue as a voice of opposition in these countries, where the "thaw" has progressed the least, using present policy and programming approaches.

[redacted]

