

## **December 20, 1956**

### **Telegram No. 2416 from Bonn to the Secretary of State**

#### **Citation:**

"Telegram No. 2416 from Bonn to the Secretary of State", December 20, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, CIA Mandatory Declassification Review, MORI #1376058. Obtained and contributed by A. Ross Johnson. Cited in his book 'Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty,' Ch1 p13. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/115002>

#### **Summary:**

The Bonn Embassy conveys to Washington the results of the German review of tapes of RFE broadcasts to Hungary from October 23 to November 10.

#### **Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Blavatnik Family Foundation

#### **Original Language:**

English

#### **Contents:**

Original Scan

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BY DEPT OF STATE  
DATE: NOV 2006



**INCOMING TELEGRAM**

*Department of State*

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

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Action

Control: 13213  
Rec'd: DECEMBER 20, 1956  
5:44 PM

F

FROM: BONN

Info

TO: Secretary of State

WPA

NO: 2416, DECEMBER 20, 7 PM.

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LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL INFORMS US REVIEW TAPES RFE BROADCASTS TO HUNGARY PERIOD OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 10 HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED. RESULTS THIS REVIEW, GIVEN TO US FOR INFORMATION UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AS FOLLOWS (DATE AND TIME BROADCAST GIVEN IN PARENTHESES):

1. NO BROADCAST STATING WEST WOULD FURNISH CONCRETE MILITARY HELP. (THIS HAS BEEN PRINCIPAL ACCUSATION AGAINST RFE.)
2. RFE QUOTED NEWS STORY DATED WASHINGTON APPEARING IN THE OBSERVER, LONDON, NOVEMBER 4, TO EFFECT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNDER IRRESISTIBLE PRESSURE TO GIVE MILITARY AID (NOVEMBER 4, 1635).
3. WORKERS WERE URGED TO STRIKE (OCTOBER 26, 1550 AND OCTOBER 30, 624), HUNGARIAN SOLDIERS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE RESISTANCE (OCTOBER 30, 1310), ADVICE GIVEN TO USE MOLOTOV COCKTAILS (OCTOBER 30, 2135), HUNGARIAN ARMY CALLED STRONGER THAN SOVIET ARMY (OCTOBER 30, 1410), AND STATEMENT MADE FIGHT HAD BEEN WON (OCTOBER 30, 1635).
4. NAGY CRITICIZED AND SUGGESTION MADE THAT FIGHTING SHOULD BE CENTRALLY ORGANIZED (NOVEMBER 2)
5. GREETINGS TO MALETER, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND MENTION MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM HIM VIA AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS (NOVEMBER 4).
6. FOREIGN OFFICE BELIEVES RFE DID NOT USE SCRIPT, WHICH IT ASSUMES HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR BROADCAST AND WHICH IMPLIED POSSIBILITY

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77-2945-118/5  
NOV 18 1956  
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(17)

-2- 2416, DECEMBER 20, 7 PM FROM BONN

POSSIBILITY AID AFTER UNSC CONSIDERATION SITUATION. DER SPIEGEL, NOVEMBER 19 ISSUE, CARRIED STORY RFE DID MAKE SUCH BROADCAST.

FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL SAID THEY INFERRED FROM THEIR ANALYSIS AND OTHER EVIDENCE TOP DIRECTORS RFE SOMETIMES UNINFORMED EXACT NATURE BROADCASTS. OFFICIAL ALSO STATED THEY HAVE HEARD OF NO ONE WHO ACTUALLY LISTENED TO ANY OF ABOVE BROADCASTS ALTHOUGH FOREIGN OFFICE ASSUMES SOVIETS HAVE COMPLETE RECORDINGS.

REPORT ON ABOVE DESCRIBED BROADCASTS BEING CLOSELY HELD WITHIN FOREIGN OFFICE. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVIEWED BY HIGHEST AUTHORITIES AND ACTION TO BE TAKEN NOT YET DETERMINED. HOWEVER, OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED MATTER FELT SOME OF STATEMENTS MADE MOST SERIOUS EVEN THOUGH GOVERNMENT IN POSITION TO DENY RFE PROMISED CONCRETE MILITARY AID. HE FELT GOVERNMENT WOULD AT MINIMUM TAKE SOME ACTION WITH RESPECT RFE TO PREVENT RECURRENCE BROADCASTS LIKE ABOVE. FURTHERMORE, GOVERNMENT COMPELLED AT SOME POINT MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING REVIEW. OFFICIAL DID NOT KNOW WHEN SUCH STATEMENT MIGHT BE MADE AND WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON TONE OR SUBSTANCE INDICATING THIS DECISION FOR TOP LEVEL AND MANY FACTORS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

[REDACTED] HAS SUGGESTED, SUBJECT AMBASSADOR'S CONCURRENCE, THAT IT BE EMPHASIZED TO GERMANS THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS THAT AIRING OF THIS SUBJECT PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF SOVIET RESOLUTION IN UNITED NATIONS WOULD BE PLAYING INTO HANDS OF SOVIETS.

O'SHANUGHNESSY

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