

## **August 21, 1957**

### **Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy Minutes**

#### **Citation:**

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#### **Summary:**

Minutes of CRBP meeting on August 20, 1957

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MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON RADIO BROADCASTING POLICY, AUGUST 20, 1957  
4:00 PM IN MR. LIGHTNER'S OFFICE

APPROVED FOR  
RELEASE DATE:  
16-Feb-2011

- Present: State - R. Burden Beams, Chairman (In Mr. Lightner's absence) - William A. McFadden  
- Henry Ramsey
- USIA - Alfred V. Soerner - Lewis Hursey  
- Gordon Huling
- CIA - Desmond Fitzgerald - [ ]  
- Carl Meyer - [ ]

I. Mr. McFadden reported that because of budget difficulties EUR evidently will be unable to finance the travel of a participant in the Belgrade Conference from Belgrade. He noted that because of the death of the Counselor, the officer designated to attend from Belgrade probably in fact would be unable to attend in any case and since it had been EUR rather than the Committee that had been most interested in Belgrade participation he wanted to confirm his assumption that the Committee would not object to dropping Belgrade participation. There was no objection. He reported also that EUR has named no political officer to attend. Although a final decision has not been taken, it appears for budgetary reasons no one will attend.

Mr. Soerner stated that, although the number of USIA participants would not be increased, there would be certain changes in persons designated to participate in the Conference.

Mr. Cox reported that a technician familiar with jamming problems from Mr. Nordbeck's organization will be available on the final day of the Conference to answer any questions that might come up in the course of the Conference.

II. Mr. Ramsey reported that agreement had been reached by the working groups on the RFE papers, but that on the YOA papers there was disagreement with respect to the addition of the phrase "on a case by case basis" to the sentence "When specifically authorized by official guidelines /on a case by case basis/ YOA may discuss favorable developments within the Soviet orbit and outline 'attractive alternatives' which might be attainable under existing conditions in \_\_\_\_\_". Mr. Meyer expressed the view that, when considered along with Mr. Larson's memo to Mr. Burton of July 22, 1957, there is no need for stronger language in the country papers. After some discussion it was agreed to exclude the words "on a case by case basis".

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The Committee approved the RFE and USIA papers before them concerning Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Rumania, with the understanding that it will be the usual rule that VOA will not broadcast commentary originated by it on the internal affairs of the countries to which RFE broadcasts. When, under unique circumstances, an exception to this general rule is deemed appropriate, VOA will broadcast commentary on internal matters only on the basis of officially authorized policy guidance. Copies of the papers will now be sent to Messrs. Arthur Larson, Allan Dulles and Robert Murphy as was done with the paper on Bulgaria. Copies will also be sent to the General Counsel in Munich, and as appropriate to the participants in the Schramm Conference.

It was noted that the Bulgarian paper would have to be modified with respect to the language on specific guidance to bring it in line with the papers just approved.

Mr. Nevey stated that, after consideration within USIA, it had been decided they could and would raise the classification of their policy papers to Secret.

It was agreed that the annexes would be completed and added to the policy papers. Although the annexes have not been considered by the Committee, they will be considered as part of the approved papers, subject to any objections that might be raised on a post-audit basis.

Mr. Ramsey noted that a paper has at last been received from EE setting forth political policy towards the USSR, so the preparation of radio broadcasting policy papers may be carried forward. After some discussion, it was agreed that because of the need for review and coordination it will not be possible to have ready in time for the Schramm Conference any documents with respect to the USSR.

III. The Committee discussed tasks that remain before it, now that the preparation of policy papers has been substantially completed. Mr. Boerner suggested the Committee might turn its attention to Chinese and other language broadcasts and draw up similar papers for them. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that it would be difficult to implement such papers, from his point of view. Mr. Nevey suggested that the next step should be to turn attention to the splinter languages and prepare similar papers for them.

Mr. Cox referred to a study of the broadcasting facilities of the NATO powers and suggested that the Committee might examine the possibilities for increased broadcasts into the Soviet Union and satellites from such facilities, including the possibility of buying advertising time. It was agreed that Mr. Cox would arrange for this study to be reproduced for distribution to the Committee.

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Aside from these specific proposals, it was agreed the Committee should remain in being in order to permit continuous review of the policy papers on radio broadcasting, and to consider problems within the radio broadcasting field the Committee might appropriately handle.

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