

April 2, 1959

Review of Radio Free Europe Polish Broadcasts

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Summary:

Cord Meyer recounts conclusions of the June 2, 1958, session of the Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

SUBJECT: Request for FS Despatch 301 from
Warsaw Embassy

I attach the Beam despatch and a copy of our memorandum to the Department of State based on a thorough review of the scripts criticized by Beam. We have not yet had a reply from the Department.

On June 2, 1958, a Departmental working group consisting of State, USIA and CIA reviewed a representative sample of RFE political commentary and at the conclusion of their report the following lines appeared:

"State representatives remarked that, judging from all scripts reviewed, RFE has gone a long way during the past several months toward meeting current broadcast policy objectives. It was emphasized that State's criticisms as outlined above were intended to apply to specific instances where certain aspects of broadcasting policy appeared to have been violated and are not to be interpreted as general criticism of RFE activities from the policy standpoint. State representatives asked that RFE be informed that the content of the scripts reviewed, generally speaking, seemed to involve a high degree of listener interest. RFE was congratulated on broadcasts in the 'International Commentary' field and on a number of other specific broadcasts. Some of the outstanding scripts were:

1. January 27 - "Bulgarian Writers"
2. January 28 - "What Happened to the One Hundred Flowers?"
3. January 28 - "Unemployment"
4. January 28 - "National Councils Election"
5. January 31 - "Iron Ore from Brazil - Coal to Argentina"
6. January 31 - "Moscow and East Berlin on MTS"
7. February 1 - "Horace Under Fire"
8. February 1 - "Foreign Trade and Balance of Payment"

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