

December 19, 1967

303 Committee Decision on Funding Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty

Citation:

"303 Committee Decision on Funding Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty", December 19, 1967, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Obtained and contributed to CWIHP by A. Ross Johnson. Reference Ch8 p206 in his book Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, CIA mandatory declassification review document number C01434017. Published as document 197, FRUS, 1964-1968, X. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/115109>

Summary:

Principals of the Departments of State and Defense and CIA agree on December 15, 1967 on "surge funding" of RFE and RL through June 1969 and on continued corporate (but not private) contributions to the RFE Fund.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Blavatnik Family Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

C01434017

19 December 1967

Attachment A

2nd + Final Version

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the 303 Committee,
15 December 1967

PRESENT: Mr. Rostow, Mr. Katzenbach, Mr. Nitze, and Mr. Helms.

Admiral R. L. Taylor and Mr. William Trueheart were present for all items.

Mr. Charles Schultze was present for Item 1.

Mr. Hugh Tovar and Mr. John Richards were present for Items 1 and 2.

1. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

a. The meeting began with a resume of the meetings and steps which began on 5 May 1967, resulting in this meeting.

b. Mr. Rostow began by asking where State stood. Mr. Katzenbach replied promptly, "Behind Mr. Schultze's recommendation for surge funding." /This may be summarized as follows: Surge funding both Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty before December 31, 1967, at the FY-68 funding levels (no modernization) so that both can continue operation until ~~July~~ 30, 1969. This would give us another year to decide what to do with both RFE and RL. The total would be \$58,000,000.7

June

c. But what happens afterwards? Mr. Katzenbach alluded to special legislation towards a public communications authority or other overt or even possibly covert funding. The point was made that it might be less difficult to reconstitute covert funding after the election than it would be now.

d. Mr. Nitze interposed that the Secretary of Defense thought an announced exception to the Katzenbach formula would be the least difficult solution.

e. Mr. Helms commented: Very well, if we accept surge funding, is the thrust toward continuation?

f. Mr. Rostow said yes and at least the staff work on the options had been performed (an allusion to the exhaustive Trueheart report), and one of the rejected paths, that of the public broadcasting authority or British Council approach, could be reopened in view of the new time available, i.e. one year, to resolve the problem.

APPROVED FOR
RELEASE: 08-Feb-2011

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g. Mr. Katzenbach agreed, but said we are face to face with the public relations aspect. He was in favor of a simple statement to the effect that with the terminations, certain funds had been provided, but there should certainly be no specific breakdown as to what organizations were supported or what amounts had been given.

h. Mr. Schultze provided an outline along the following lines: It is not our policy to identify American educational and private voluntary organizations which received non-overt funding for specific periods in the past. The U. S. Government is not providing such support and has fully implemented the Statement of Policy which was accepted by the President on March 29, 1967. The Government has provided some extra funds for limited time periods until alternative means can be found. We are reviewing Government policy with a view toward normal congressionally-approved overt funding for certain organizations which might require and merit continued governmental financial assistance.

i. Mr. Katzenbach elaborated that the Department had the choice, as the deadline neared, of waiting for questions or planting a question in advance.

j. The question was raised as to the timing of the two radios filing appropriate statements with the Internal Revenue Service. Mr. Schultze observed that the surge-funding figure would only appear in the 1968 declaration in early 1969.

k. The point was made that the directors of the radios should be informed that their statements, preferably brief (left to their proven judgment in the past), should indicate they intend to continue.

l. Mr. Katzenbach raised the question of the continuation
[redacted] individuals with both radios. [redacted]

[redacted] Mr. Katzenbach said he had no worries with those [redacted]. The comment was made that all, [redacted] had been on the team for long periods, were more sanitized than not, and were built into the woodwork.

m. Mr. Helms raised the question of future policy control. Mr. Katzenbach felt that this had been well performed for many years, should not be disturbed by the Department, and was already well coordinated [redacted]

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n. On the question of fund raising, Mr. Katzenbach felt that witting corporate contributors presented no problems but that radio solicitation for individual donors should be stopped at once. It was agreed that the radios would be so instructed.

o. It was agreed that the statement for Mr. McCloskey should be drafted by Mr. Trueheart for submission to Mr. Katzenbach and general agreement by the principals.

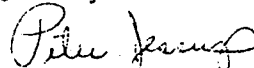
p. On all the points enumerated above, particularly as to continuation, there was an unanimity and consensus of approval among the principals. The only uncertainty registered was to the possible public and media attitudes--an aspect most difficult to determine in advance; hence, the request in paragraph o. above for a suggested press statement intended for use in the event questions arise after 31 December. This statement was circulated on 18 December to the principals, and concurrence and/or comments are not yet available.

2. Project Review

Mr. Rostow noted that we had ridden right into the middle of December and had a legal obligation to have covered all covert efforts which might possibly be construed to come under the aegis of the Katzenbach Committee rulings. He asked where we now stand. Mr. Tovar noted that every effort had been made to cover the field; he could assure the chairman that every major project and expenditure in this field had been examined, that there might be bits and pieces and marginal efforts which had not yet been prepared for screening. Mr. Rostow implied that in the marginal field there might be some potential cliff hangers, and Mr. Helms directed that a list of these be prepared promptly for Mr. Rostow so that he would know what could be expected on forthcoming agendas in the grey area. Mr. Tovar noted that the review of the marginal projects was a continuous year-round process and was not limited to a specific search scheduled to end 31 December.

3. Operation NIGHT BOLT

On Operation NIGHT BOLT (see minute of 8 December 1967 meeting), Mr. Nitze noted that he was submitting some additional papers. Mr. Katzenbach observed that the Secretary of State had not been overcome with enthusiasm, and Mr. Rostow stated that it would be discussed at the next Tuesday lunch with higher authority.


Peter Jessup

Distribution

Mr. Katzenbach
Mr. Nitze
Mr. Helms