

October 24, 1956

**Memorandum from [redacted] for Chief, ICD,
'Guidance to Radio Liberation from New York on
Satellite Situation'**

Citation:

"Memorandum from [redacted] for Chief, ICD, 'Guidance to Radio Liberation from New York on Satellite Situation'", October 24, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Obtained and contributed to CWIHP by A. Ross Johnson and referenced in Ch3 p111 of his book Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. CIA mandatory declassification review document number C01385011. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/115990>

Summary:

The International Operations Division officer responsible for Radio Liberty notes to Cord Meyer his disagreement with RL's policy of avoiding all commentary on the Hungarian Revolution. He cites Meyer's intention to discuss the issue with AMCOMLIB president Sargeant.

Credits:

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English

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24 October 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, ICD

SUBJECT: Guidance to Radio Liberation from New York on
Satellite Situation.

1. The attached Telecon conversation between New York and Munich giving guidance for treatment of the satellite situation was given me by telephone by Bob Dreher. Dreher explained that a meeting had been held in AmsonLib before the Telecon to arrive at a position, at which the guidance sent by this branch earlier in the morning had been read. The refusal of permission for Munich to broadcast any commentary stems directly from Mr. Sargeant, magnified by Mr. Shub. Mr. Dunham did not dissent.

2. Mr. Sargeant's reasoning, as transmitted by Mr. Dreher, is that the situation is so fluid and so risky that Radio liberation must not get into an editorial position at this time. He feels that it is essential to avoid giving the listeners an impression of outside interference and that RadLib is so identified as an American voice that its comment could be considered interference. Furthermore, Mr. Sargeant is convinced that through the manipulation of news RadLib can establish its position just as well or better than by delivering editorials.

3. The question of distinction between VOA and RadLib was raised, and it was pointed out that RadLib is not quoting western comment to any extent, and no U.S. comment, whereas VOA's job is to give U.S. reaction.

4. I find myself in complete disagreement with the ban on commentary. But I do not feel that I can oppose the Sargeant-Shub-Dunham position with my own opinion, or even that I should. May we discuss?

[Redacted]

AG/IO/5

Attachment
Telecon dtd. 24 Oct. 56

[Redacted]

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