

**December 29, 1951**

**Forest McCluney, 'Memorandum for the President  
[of AMCOMLIB], No. 16, Subject: Procurement'**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

AMCOMLIB director of broadcasting Forest McCluney informs the AMCOMLIB President that Free Europe Committee/Radio Free Europe declines to organize procurement for the future Radio Liberation.&nbsp;

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December 29, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT, No. 16

Subject: Procurement

In October I discussed with Radio Free Europe people the possibility of their doing our procurement on a cost plus percentage basis (see memorandum dated October 12, 1951, attached). Earlier this week I mentioned this idea to Mr. Robert E. Lang, Director of Radio Free Europe, and I told him we had been more or less counting on his procurement section to do our procurement of technical items and asked him to confirm the arrangement. Mr. Lang's reaction was immediately negative, but he said that he would take it up with the officers of the committee.

Yesterday Mr. Lang informed me that he had taken up the proposition with Mr. Jackson, the President, and Mr. Phenix, the Vice President, of the National Committee for a Free Europe. He said that they had confirmed his own judgment and the answer was an unequivocal "no".

By way of explanation, Mr. Lang stated that the reason they had made available to us the transmitter site at Lampertheim was to avoid such entanglements and they felt that to do our procurement for us would have the same result. Mr. Lang, however, reiterated the willingness of Radio Free Europe to assist us by providing advice, consultation and any other cooperation short of actually assuming responsibility for discharging functions for us. (It should be noted that the advice, consultation, and other assistance which RFE has been extending to us and will continue to extend to us have been and will continue to be very important.)

Since the Radio Free Europe people are adamant in their decision not to perform the purchasing functions for us, and since our procurement problems over the next few months are not expected to be of unmanageable proportions, it is my judgment that we should not at this time argue the merits of the RFE/NCFE decision, but accept it as final and proceed to make other arrangements. Specific arrangements which are open to us will be the subject of other memoranda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the RFE/NCFE decision against performing our procurement work be accepted as final and that the Director of Radio proceed to make other arrangements for handling the procurement problem.

OFF 42 103 78-02727R  
DAY 5 FOLDER 8

*Forrest McCluney*  
Forrest McCluney

October 12, 1951

MEMORANDUM:

Subject: Procurement

Yesterday, during a brief visit to RFE in New York, I saw Mr. Claude Harris, who acts as technical coordinator for Mr. Lang. He mentioned that they were setting up their own procurement section in New York.

I said that procurement was going to be one of my major problems and that the volume would not justify setting up our own section for this purpose. I then asked if he thought they, RFE, would be willing to do our procurement for us, on a cost plus percentage basis, the percentage calculated to contribute to their overhead. Mr. Harris said that he thought that they would, since it would not only help to defray the cost of their overhead, but it would also build up their volume, which is naturally a very important factor in the success of any procurement office.

Mr. Harris then called Mr. Tom Brown, Assistant Director of RFE, who confirmed that RFE would probably be willing to do our procurement for us on this basis.

This is submitted as another, and possibly the most logical, solution to our problem of finding a qualified procurement office to do our purchasing.

F.McC.