

May 10, 1965

Letter, Robert L. Tuck to Howland H. Sargeant

Citation:

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Summary:

RL policy advisor Tuck informs President Sargeant of changes made in the text of a new Policy Manual in response to concerns of RL nationality service editors.

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English

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18 MAY 1955

RLCONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Rowland H. Sargeant, President
Radio Liberty Committee, Inc.
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Sargeant:

At long last the RL Policy Manual has been approved by the Council of Editors. During the meeting I accepted four changes in the wording of the Russian language version, which should be reflected in the English, and I hope you will approve.

All revolved around the nationality question and our non-predetermination policy, to which all our non-Russian editors are so sensitive. The translation into Russian showed up the problem in the English text as well.

Because of the lack of articles, either definite or indefinite, in the Russian language, it is not possible clearly to render the abstract English term, "government," in English. Our sensitive minority representatives consider the singular form of "pravitel'stvo" as meaning that we look forward to retention of only one government or form of government, even when the peoples and citizens of the USSR have the right of free choice.

On this basis, then, I accepted the following changes in the Russian text, which would read as follows in the English version:

1. Under "Section III-B, Mission:" instead of "to replace dictatorship with representative government" we have "to replace dictatorship with freely-elected forms of government";
2. Under "Section I, What is Radio Liberty," in the second sentence of the first paragraph insert "forms of" between "establish" and "government," so that it reads, "...to help themselves achieve freedom from dictatorial rule by peaceful means and establish forms of government freely elected by and responsive to the citizens and peoples of the USSR.";
3. Under "Section III-A, RL's Ultimate Goal:" drop the word "Soviet" from that sentence, so that it reads "the best interests of all citizens.;" and
4. Under "Section IV-A-3," at the top of the page of your version, change the sentence to read, "Nor does RL depart from the principle that it is the right of the peoples of the Soviet Union themselves to determine their future state structure when they are free to do so."

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There were some other points which I resolved to the editors' satisfaction. They wanted to change the above points somewhat more drastically, but settled for these revisions, which I believe are quite valid. So long as we stick to the non-predeterminist line and forbid separatist talk on the part of our nationality desks, I think we owe it to them to carefully avoid any suggestion that we think the present structure of the USSR should remain intact.

I will hold up the final typing of these sections until I hear from you, and hope that you will have no difficulty in approving them.

I look forward to seeing you personally next month. We plan to be in New York from June 14 to 17 for TDY there before going on Home Leave.

Yours sincerely,

Robert L. Tuck

RLT:ne

cc: Shollenberger
Malukoff
Sosin

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April 9, 1965

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Mr. Robert Tuck
Radio Liberty Committee
Munich, Germany

Dear Bob,

I take great pleasure in announcing that the Policy Manual has been approved, and can be issued as is, with the incorporation of a few minor revisions indicated on the attached draft. The reaction, according to Sam, was very favorable indeed. The revisions are on pages ii, iii, iv, I/1, II/B/7, II/B/9, II/B/10, III/A/B/C/1, and IV/B/3. Mr. Sargeant, of course, has seen and approved the changes. We understand that the procedure to be followed now is that you will submit the Manual to the Council of Editors for its approval, and will then inform Mr. Sargeant so that the Manual can be officially issued by the President's Office. Good luck, and fair sailing.

Regards,

Joan B. Malukoff

cc: Sargeant
Sosin