

1961**Radio Liberty Policy Position Statement: Military
Technological Achievements****Citation:**

"Radio Liberty Policy Position Statement: Military Technological Achievements", 1961, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Released by the Central Intelligence Agency on October 16, 2019, in response to Mandatory Declassification Review request EOM-2018-00930. Contributed by A. Ross Johnson.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/290936>

Summary:

Radio Liberty outlines its position on the advancement of military technologies, and seeks to convince listeners that communist countries (namely China and the Soviet Union) are the most aggressive and dangerous in regards to military technologies.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Blavatnik Family Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

RADIO LIBERTY
Approved for Release: 2019/10/29 C06768169
POLICY POSITION STATEMENT

MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

undated (1901) (1)

Situation and Assumptions

The amazing advances being made in the field of modern military technology are a source of pride to the nations which lead in this field. At the same time, however, they have seriously increased the fear of all mankind that another world war may result in mass extermination. Although Soviet propaganda attributes to Western governments a lack of responsibility and an absence of control over their military forces, it is a fact that in an open society the people have built-in controls over their governments in the vital area of peace. These built-in controls are achieved through such institutions as a free and independent press; civic organizations devoted to the general welfare; actual control of the budget by freely elected legislative representatives, who hold open hearings from time to time; by a considerable degree of free access to sites and facts; by free expression of opinions and publication of facts in popular and specialized publications, and the like. Until similar control of the Soviet government by the people of the Soviet Union is established, the cause of peace cannot be said to be in the hands of that people.

Precisely because this is not the case, the governments and people of the Free World distrust the Soviet government. For a government that is afraid to trust the people it governs obviously cannot be trusted by the people and hence does not merit the trust of others.

Objectives

Radio Liberty seeks to convey the idea that achievements in the field of military technology are dangerous to the extent that those governments, which 1) possess weapons of mass destruction and 2) are not truly responsive to the will of their own peoples, can use these weapons, or the threat of them, in the conduct of aggressive foreign relations. RL seeks to convince its listeners that Communist regimes are today the most aggressive and the least responsible to their own peoples and hence military technology at their disposal constitutes the greatest danger to peace.

Further, Radio Liberty aims:

1. To make clear to the Soviet audience that the demobilization of armed forces in the USSR is not due to the peace-loving nature of the Soviet government but to a general military technological revolution affecting the military forces of all big powers;
2. to convince this audience that the policy of "peaceful coexistence" is a direct outgrowth of the same military technological revolution, which makes war almost unthinkable and forces the Soviet leadership, if it is not to abandon its aim of a Communist world, to concentrate on economic and political struggle against the free nations;
3. to convey to the audience the fact that Communist China, which opposes Moscow's policy of so-called "peaceful coexistence" with the Free World, is pressing for nuclear weapons of its own which Peiping's leaders have suggested they would be willing to use to attain their objectives.

a. Treatment in Soviet Propaganda

In making its claims to the most powerful country militarily, the Soviet regime has constantly asserted its superiority in missile and space research and alleged inferiority of the West, particularly the United States. While playing up the Soviet sputnik and successful ICBM shots, Soviet media concentrate on reporting American missile failures and have ignored significant achievements or at best have referred to them in passing. Moreover, the whole controlled press in the USSR does not suggest that American missiles are regarded in the free world as a deterrent to Communist aggression and surprise attacks. As a general rule, all Soviet media portray Western advances in the field of military technology, such as the launching of Polaris missiles by nuclear powered submarines, as proof of Western aggressive intentions toward the Soviet Union and its allies.

b. Treatment by Radio Liberty

RL recognizes that Soviet people are understandably proud of their country's achievements in the development of space rockets, but that many also resent the fact that such a large part of the national resources is being devoted to these products instead of the satisfaction of consumer needs. Although Soviet citizens accept official claims of the USSR'S progress in outer space, many also sense that their regime is deliberately concealing or belittling United States' accomplishments in this field, and RL takes this factor into account by informing the audience about these accomplishments. RL also recognizes that many people may be frightened by the Soviet regime's irresponsible brandishment of its rocket power. Therefore RL has a responsibility to ensure their knowledge of official or semi-official Soviet statements of this kind.

RL believes that a climate of relaxation inside the USSR is essential for encouraging the type of political evolution most beneficial to the Soviet people as a whole. RL therefore seeks to avoid contributing to increased political tension inside the USSR by unnecessarily frightening the Soviet listener with accounts of American missile might or the devastation which would result from thermo-nuclear war. At the same time RL cannot contribute to the Soviet regime's claims to invincibility and depreciation of the West and to either a false sense of security or a feeling of futility on the Soviet listener's part by underplaying the achievements and power of the West. Rather RL treats all significant military-technological achievements in their proper context, labeling purely military hardware as such, without assigning unwarranted "peaceful" or "scientific" attributes to it, but representing it as additions to free world deterrent and defensive capability.

Radio Liberty:

1. Gives close attention in news reporting and commentaries to debates in the United States Congress and other Free World parliaments, statements of private organizations, etc. on the subject of military arms policies. (Important statements of personalities should be carried in Panorama.)

2. Devotes continuing coverage in the Press Review to editorial views regarding military technology and related questions, such as the advisability of resorting to the use of weapons of mass destruction, providing nuclear weapons to NATO, and the like.

3. Uses the format of the Military Notebook to give excerpts from military or other specialized publications on current military strategy and tactical employment of the newest weapons.

4. Similarly, informs the listeners in a factual manner about the latest achievements in military technology of free world nations (Military Notebook, Compass, America Today, Science and Technology, etc.)

5. Makes concrete comparisons between the modernization of the Soviet armed forces and other countries' armed forces (in the Military Notebook and other Part II features).

6. Cites facts and figures to prove that the savings resulting from demobilization of the Soviet armed forces are actually reinvested in the latest weapons or diverted into economic and political actions against the free world rather than devoted to improvement of the Soviet population's living standards (the Military Notebook, Part I commentaries and press reviews, etc.).

7. Discusses in Part I and Part II, as appropriate, the problem of relations between open and closed societies and the effect, particularly that of secrecy and suspicion in a closed society, on the possibility of effective disarmament and arms control. Re-schedules Part II features which can be up-dated to reflect current disarmament negotiations. Also discusses the abstract problem of secrecy and suspicion in relation to mutual trust (Father Shmemon, Religion and Liberty, etc.).

8. Reviews books on such subjects as differences between open and closed societies, modern military strategy and tactics, development of the latest military technology, etc. in the Bookshelf (and in the Military Notebook).

VDR:AdW