May 5, 1959
Radio Liberation Policy Position Statement: World Youth Festival

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Summary:

Radio Liberty outlines its intention to intensify youth outreach efforts during the World Youth Festival-- a festival which they argue is a communist propaganda event.

Credits:

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English

Contents:

Original Scan

КАБИНЕТ СОВЕТНИКА ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПОЛИТИКИ И ПЛАНИРОВАНИЯ
OFFICE OF THE POLICY AND PLANNING ADVISER

No. 24 (First Revis
May 5, 1959

RADIO LIBERATION

Policy Position Statement

World Youth Festival

A. Aims.

   1. Taking advantage of the focus on youth during the festival, we intensify our efforts to give a broad and realistic picture of how the youth of the world think and live.

   2. Correct any misconceptions of the life and views of youth throughout the world which might stem from the communist propaganda produced in connection with the festival.

   3. Reflect widespread awareness in the non-Soviet world of communist manipulations in mass youth organizations controlled by the communists.

   4. Show that the festival itself is designed as a propaganda event to forward communist political ends and not as a genuine exchange of ideas among representative youth groups.

   5. Popularize idea of personal contacts between youth of the communist and non-communist countries.

B. Basic Methods.

   1. We broadcast on the assumption that the festival in Moscow in 1957 has given the Soviet public a generally positive feeling about such occasions and possibilities they offer for genuine personal contacts. Therefore, while we note free world opposition to communist direction and control of festival activities and individual participants, and the use of neutral Vienna to lend respectability to communist front organizations represented at the festival, we take no categorical position for or against the holding of the festival. Our overall approach, brought out primarily in features, but also in other coverage, is that we favor any gathering of young people which promotes genuine person-to-person contacts and does not pretend to reflect the views of those it does not actually represent. We note that communist officials are apprehensive about such genuine contacts. Instead, in an effort to exploit the desire of youth in communist and free world countries for free contacts, they mount such an event as the Youth Festival, which is designed, through handpicked delegates and control over the proceedings, to support the current political objectives of the Soviet Government.

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2. We report the World Youth Festival rather heavily in news, press
reviews, interviews and features on the assumption that there is
considerable interest in the subject among our listeners.

3. While giving both sides of the story in our coverage, we give
special attention to

- events ignored in Soviet coverage,

- statements and actions by communists, pro-communists and neutrals
which are unorthodox from a communist point of view,

- efforts of neutrals and others to disassociate themselves from
the communist aims of the festival.

- action by non-communists designed to reduce and counter communist
influence over the proceedings.

4. We give especially full play to all evidence of genuine and
rewarding person-to-person contact between communists and non-
communists.

5. We broadcast material not specifically about or pegged to the
festival which describes how non-communist students and youth
organizations operate, and which depicts the personal lives of
these youths. This is particularly important for underdeveloped
areas.

Adopted at the Joint Policy Meeting, May 5, 1959.