

October 14, 1948

**Draft Charter of Committee to Support Émigré
Broadcasting [Approved for Release, February 16,
2011]**

Citation:

"Draft Charter of Committee to Support Émigré Broadcasting [Approved for Release, February 16, 2011]", October 14, 1948, Wilson Center Digital Archive, CIA Mandatory Declassification Review, #C05458947. Obtained and contributed by A. Ross Johnson. Referenced in his book 'Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty,' Ch1 p13.
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/114322>

Summary:

Draft charter for an émigré-support committee, prepared by the Office of Policy Coordination official Maynard Ruddock

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Blavatnik Family Foundation

Original Language:

English

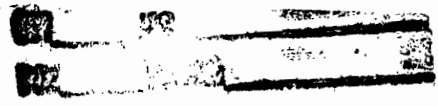
Contents:

Original Scan

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The attached seeks to incorporate all ideas presented at Wednesday's meeting. I am still not very happy about the last ~~paragraph~~ paragraph, which described what the committee will DO.

A concept or theme which might also be woven in to the text is that "common principles and common interests of democracy throughout the world provide a basis for concerted action by freedom-loving peoples."

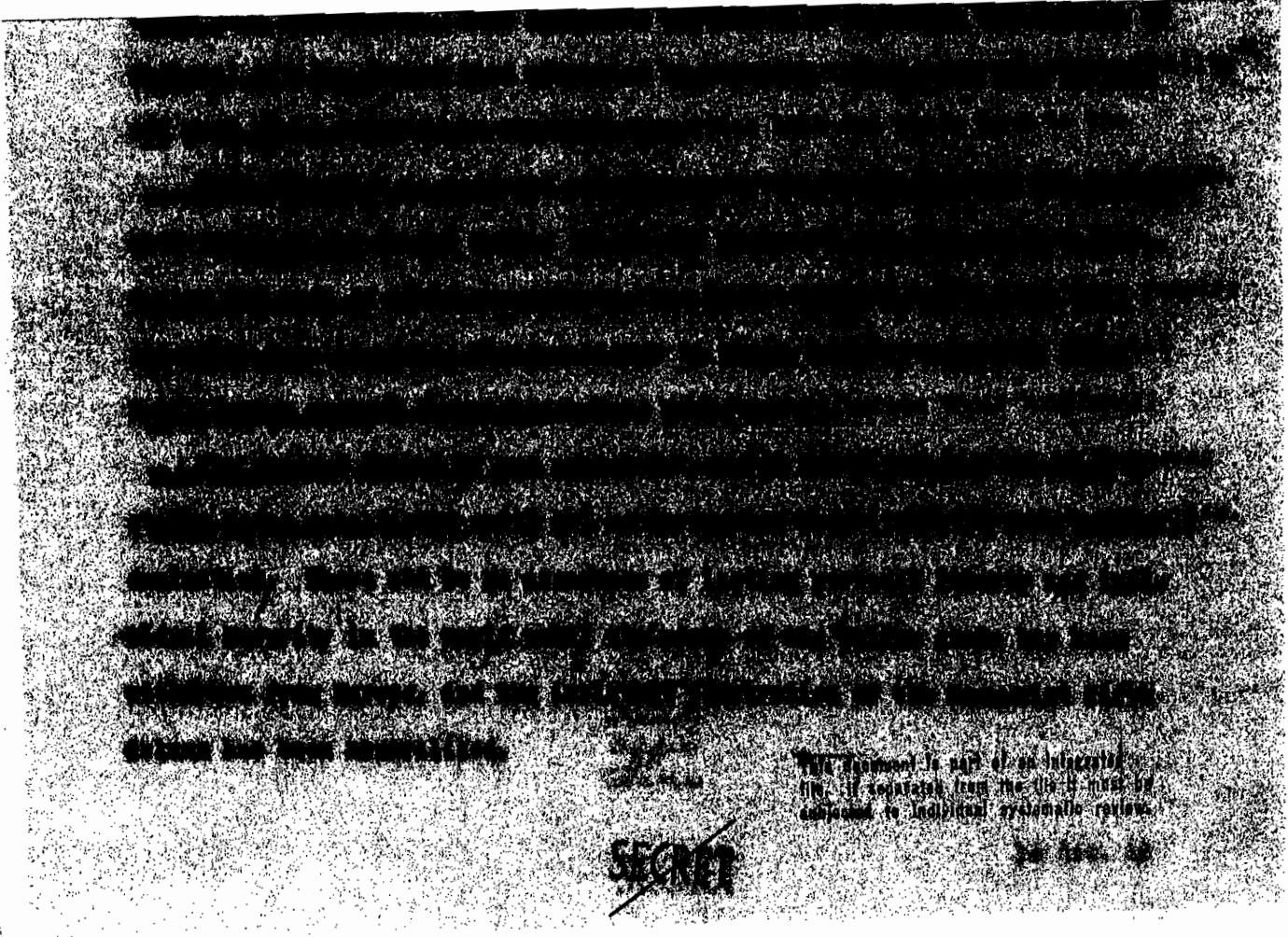
Please note the undersigned feels no pride of authorship and invites all forms of revision.

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mkr

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(1a)

We the members of this _____ Committee, in recognition of the fact that two-thirds of the European Continent is under Communist totalitarian domination and the balance under threat of this tyranny, and in recognition of the fact that the European peoples look primarily to the American people for encouragement, support and deliverance, have joined together to help Europe regain its freedom.

More than three years have passed since the termination of the second world war. Many of the objectives for which the Western peoples fought remain unattained. Sovereign rights, in particular the rights of self-government, have not been restored to the peoples of Eastern Europe, and the exercise of these rights by the peoples of Western Europe is under constant threat. In Eastern Europe the rights of freedom and of thought and expression have once again been suppressed. Once again the popular will regarding the conduct of national affairs cannot find effective expression. Europe has been divided and much of it returned to the Dark Ages.

This situation is a direct consequence of the tyrannical and expansionist activities of the Soviet Union. While the Western democracies have been reducing the area of their sovereignty, the Soviet Union in effect has considerably been expanding its frontiers. A larger area of Europe is under totalitarian control today than before World War II.

The present threat of war cannot be removed and conditions favoring a stable peace established until all of Europe has been liberated from Communist domination. There can be no assurance of lasting personal liberty and individual security in the world until the power of the police state has been withdrawn from Europe, and the insidious penetration of the Communist Fifth Column has been neutralized.

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The great liberation movements of the past have had their roots in people rather than regimes. This new European liberation movement likewise has its origin and will take its strength from the peoples of Europe. The majority of these people, now under Soviet tyranny, can only at great personal jeopardy and with great difficulty give expression to their ideas and aims. Their true opinions, their hopes and their objectives are well-known, however. The voice of truth cannot be silenced even by the knout or the bullet. The people of Europe seek freedom -- freedom from tyranny and freedom from fear -- and they turn urgently to America for help.

This Committee of citizens of a free country proposes to help the subjugated and threatened Europeans to regain and maintain their freedom. The members of a free people harken to the cry of those who were once free and long for a return to liberty. This Committee recognizes that governments alone cannot advance the cause of liberty. The people must assume their share of this great responsibility. Motivated by this concept of personal responsibility in a democracy, the members of this Committee hold out their hand to the Europeans seeking freedom, and offer them encouragement, support and assistance.

The Committee will assist democratic Europeans who have escaped from tyranny to enjoy the fundamental rights which have been taken from their people; it will help them restore these rights to their fellow countrymen; and will give all possible assistance to their efforts to liberate their homelands. This Committee will help give expression to the ideas and desires of Europeans under tyranny or in refuge by providing them with the means for such expression.

Copies of this given to:
Wassier
Frank
Offie
Baker

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~~SECRET~~MISSION 2

1. Give support to activities of democratic representatives of Soviet dominated countries -
 - a. Encourage and give support to groups and organizations which are in refuge from the Soviet and Satellite World;
 - b. Provide these groups and organizations with facilities for communicating with their countrymen in the Free World, and behind the Iron Curtain;
 - c. Assist them in providing or locating suitable employment for their members;
 - d. Rally U. S. popular support for these activities;
 - e. Raise funds from selected U. S. individuals and groups for these purposes.
2. Disseminate pro-Western and anti-Communist propaganda -
 - a. By providing facilities for appropriate refugee groups to engage in information activities, particularly in areas under U. S. control adjacent to the Soviet sphere. Such activities would include broadcasting and printing;
 - b. Provide speakers, issue press releases, publish a newsletter, promote advertising tie-in and letter-writing campaigns -- in the U. S.;
 - c. Combat and counter Soviet propaganda;
 - d. Arrange for broadcasts by emigre leaders such as Nagy, Mikolajczyk.
3. Provide assistance to Soviet/Satellite refugees -
 - a. Arrange for shelter and employment for significant refugees from the Soviet/Satellite World.

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