

November 20, 1951 CIA-State Department "Summit" Limits Scope of Radio Free Europe

Citation:

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Summary:

Assistant Secretary of State Edward Barrett reviews Free Europe Committee plans with Allen Dulles and other officials. The State Department vetoes startup of Radio Free Europe Baltic broadcasting on grounds that it would duplicate Voice of America broadcasts and insists that the Crusade for Freedom be toned down. Dulles subsequently rejects the latter point in a handwritten annotation.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

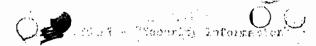
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outlive follow-neontrymen. By implication this would preclude anknowledged approachip by American, British, or any group other than the speaking enignes. It also implies that the broadcasts would be in the standard breadcast bands.

2. Splure of Activity for WOA

To deliver a rodio necesses, by both medium and short wave, in the name of the United States Government and the American peoples

Thuse proposals more not agrees to in the meeting.

Following the first reading of those proposals, Mr. Bulles pointed out that the RFB Orses progress does not now credit emigre groups but within pula Correct effective individuals many of whom are anonyments.

Mr. Wholes advenged the suggestion that porhaps RFE activities should only be continued if they are supplementary and noncompetitive with VCA.

Mr. Kohler generalized tids Thought in a proposal that RFS should carry on covers or supplementary activities which will sid the official United States Covernment radio. Mr. histor sid not whink the term "covert" could be logically applied in the case of FFE.

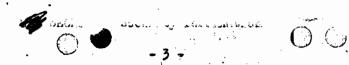
Hr. Joyce connected that at the present time the emigre committees connected with NGFs are so divided that NFE cannot ordinarily get authority to attribute 10 mms to any one of the emigre groups. In did add that the committees are serving one of their original purposes in that they are keeping emigre group pressure from officials in the State Department.

in response to a question, said that there is now very little reporting of pregram material by emigre groups in New York. That was previously the backs brongement but now the bulk of the unterial is originating overseas.

Mr. Barrett referred to the four questions which were posed by Mr. Ruraard at the previous meeting and caid, that we bught to examine all RFE activities in the light of the following questions:

- "1. Is the activity one that is serving a useful enough purpose to justify the funds involved?
- 2. Can it be done better by this organization than by Government directly or by other existing organizations?

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- .3. Is it jeopardizing the existence and suscess of other important activities?
- 4. How can it best be financed?"

Mr. Barrett went on to say that according to best available estimates the USSR is now spending about two billion dollars a year on
propagance and directly related solivities. Hence, there is considerable justification for multiple activities— provided they don't adversely affect one another. He also said that same of the need for nonGovernmental groups to participate in a "no holds barred" campaign has
disappeared with the toughering attitude of the United States Government vis-a-vis USSR, but that we should study carrially the extent to
which such more-extreme-then-government activities are still justified.

Mr. Barbour stated that the limit on what the United States Government may say is probably getting less and less but there will always be some such area which can better be hardled by a non-Governmental organization.

Mr. Kohler stated that he does not see in preciscal terms what this non-Governmental area is. He mentioned that VOA is now using very strong anti-Stalin material and the principal yardstick is whether an item is effective propagands or not. He pointed out that this same criterion would apply to the operations of a non-Governmental organization. Mr. Kohler added that he thinks that the FFE programming is probably a little more conversative than VOA because MFE is not so near policy and has to tread carefully on a number of issues.

aware that it could. He added that if a third force group appeared which had semething to say that we wanted said and could not say our selves it would then be time to give them radio facilities.

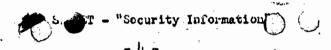
Mr. Barbour stated that he feels that RFE could as a general rule take a more strident line than VOA.

Mr. Barrett raised the question as to whether the Czech operation was actually ideal and suggested that we ought to get more information on it.

Mr. Witner reported that the French are now taking active steps to form a national committee. He also said that the British were making some moves in that direction but had not getten far. Mr. Barrett said that instead of a national committee for France, Britein, U.S., and so on, there ought to be a committee for free Europe which would really be international in character. Mr. Dullos said that an international committee would be very difficult to organize and even more difficult to operate. What would be better in his opinion would be three national committees with a permanently sitting coordinating group, probably in Paris.

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Mr. Barrett said that he felt we might somehow profit by the devices worked out by American political parties... organizations such as New Dealers for Willkie", "Young Democrate for Dewey" and so on.

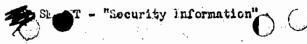
Mr. Kohler raised the question of what we are really after in Eastern Europe. He said that he didn't think we needed propagands in Eastern Europe because the Russians are doing our work for us.

Mr. Joyce did not agree with this and referred to the NSC basic documents in which we are directed to increase tension in Eastern Europe and try to release the USSR's hold over its satellites and roll back the Soviet borders to the 1939 lines.

Mr. Barrett said that he felt it was most important for us to get news and ideas to the people in Eastern Europe. Mr. Kohler added that two radio voices -- VOA and RFE -- are worse than one when they are not clearly distinguishable by the addience. Mr. Wisher said if we needed more volume to Eastern Europe we should step up the Voice of America.

| Mr. Barrett recalled the fact that Mr. Kohler feels that there |
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| is nothing that needs to be said to the that cannot be said |
| is nothing that needs to be said to the that cannot be said quite adequately by the Voice of America. Mr. Dulles raised the ques- |
| tion of how the plans of RFE could be called off if it is |
| decided not to put the programs on the air. Er. Kohler said that in |
| his talks with John Hughes and Adolph Porle he had the definite im- |
| pression that the personnel which had so far been lined up for the |
| program could be taken care of in other ways. He said it |
| would be better to have a headache for a couple of weeks than to live |
| with the problem for a couple of years. Mr. Dulles pointed out that a |
| responsible group of American citizens had participated in the planning |
| for this and other RFL activities and that they and their proposals |
| could not just be casually dismessed. Are Misner said he felt that |
| a perfectly logical explanation could be advanced, that political con- |
| ditions have changed and that the State Department is now able to carry |
| on the job; therefore, IFE's resources could be applied in other |
| directions. Mr. Barrett recalled that the request from the State |
| Department for the broadcast by life had come at a time when |
| State did not have the financial resources to undertake such programs. |
| Mr. Kohler said that the program need had first come to his |
| atiention in the winter of 1919-50. Mr. Dulles reminded the group |
| that in May, 1951 the Department of State had approved RFE broadcasts |
| in the languages. Mr. Joyce said that this same approval had |
| come as recently as August 8 of this year from the Department. It was |
| generally agreed that in spite of these commitments conditions had |
| changed and it was important now that RFE broadcasts did not go on in |
| the languages. Mr. Kohler thon said that he would get together |
| in New York with RFE representatives to help them take the heat off RFE |
| in connection with any cancellation of the language sbroadcast |
| plans. He said that he would do this within a work. |

in the electronic war.



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Mr. Wisner asked if the present policy of the Department would allow subversive broadcasts to this area. Mr. Kehler said there was no necessity for subversive broadcasts since we had not recognized the Soviet rule in these areas and were working with what we folt were the legal governments.

and NoE in Now

Mr. Dulles said that close limison between

said that RFE has just about completed work on three stations in Lisbon which are powered with 50 kilometts occh. These have been intended for relaying purposes only, with the programs originating in Munich being sent to Portugal and then played back by short wave to Hungary, Rumania, and so one. Mr. Perrett made the suggestion that perhaps more radio operations could be justified simply on the basis of tying up Russian facilities and making some progress.

Mr. Dullas refleed the question of that should be done about the Crusade for Freedom rext year. Er. Barrett said that he felt that the present type of campaign was harming the total United States offort and making people ask the question whether the Velce of America is really needed. He did say that to his surprise no serious questions came up in the last Congress concerning the apparent duplication between Radio Free Europe and VOA. Mr. Barrett suggested that instead of the present type of Crusado for Freedom, a low-pressure program should be conducted. He said that something along the line of the tuberculosis scal campaign in magazines, with coupons, and so on, ought to be tried, out. then said that Abbott Washburn was only getting into high speed on the Cruendo and that in the next few years he hoped to be able to work the Crucade for Freedom up to a point where could be raised. Mr. Dulles suggested that er. Washburn he brought down to washington at an carly date and given the idea of the low-pressure campaign. Mr. Barrott raised the question of explaining the rest of the RFE budget if the Eail order approach raises only He felt that an amonymous donor could take care of that problem but Mr. Dulles did not agree on this point. Mr. Dulles raised the question of whether the Crusade for Freedom has value in making the public more aware of the international political situation. It was said that this question could not really be answered. Mr. Barrett felt that it probably made the public more aware in certain respents but on the whole created more problems than it solved.

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be brought in for a dispussion of this whole problem. In closing.

Mr. Barrett sugjected that the four questions resed by

He organized that CIA appoint one person and that State appoint challer to well as a team to do this job. Mr. Daller said that he upuld profer to lee a record of this meeting and have a charge to discuss it with his collegates before appointing and a person.

P - John Davide

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Cleared by Mr. Brasien - ClA

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