

**March 15, 1952**

**CIA, State Department, American Committee for  
Liberation Discussion of Radio Liberty Broadcasting**

**Citation:**

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/114375>

**Summary:**

CIA, State Department, and American Committee for Liberation (AMCOMLIB) officials agree to expand AMCOMLIB activities, share funding with Radio Free Europe from the Crusade for Freedom, and delay Radio Liberty broadcasts until a sponsoring Russian Émigré Political Center is formed

**Credits:**

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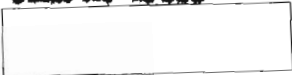
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15 March 1988

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Summary of Conclusions Reached at 14 March 1988 Meeting in Office of Mr. G. E. Bohlen on Questions Raised by Admiral Alan G. Kirk**

**Present: G. E. Bohlen  
Admiral Alan G. Kirk  
Allen W. Dulles  
Francis S. Stevens  
Walworth R. Barbour  
Robert P. Joyce  
John A. Cross**



The meeting was called at the request of Admiral Kirk, who wished to discuss a few questions concerning the American Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia. The following conclusions were reached:

1. Continuing efforts to add to the membership of the Committee persons of prominence will be intensified.
- a. Special emphasis will be laid on adding members of such established wealth as to increase the plausibility of the Committee's engaging in its contemplated psychological warfare activities.
- b. Mr. Dulles undertook to expedite the customary security clearance on these persons, by waiving normal security procedures after a routine name check has revealed nothing unfavorable.
2. The Committee will initiate projects the value of which from a research standpoint should enable it to obtain grants from one or more Foundations (Carnegie, Rockefeller, etc.). To the extent that Foundation funds are thus obtained, added plausibility will be given to Committee operations from a financial aspect.
3. A third source of funds, for the Committee's activities will be developed through the Crusade for Freedom. This Crusade now

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finances many of the activities of the National Committee for Free Europe [redacted] No policy objection was seen to the Crusade's also financing Admiral Kirk's Committee. Mr. Bohlen stated that he approved such use of the funds raised by the Crusade.

a. Mr. Dulles stressed the need for examining whether the Crusade can now contribute to the Committee, from the funds raised by it in the 1951 campaign. That campaign may have been so conducted that contributors might resent Crusade funds going to the American Committee.

b. It was agreed that in any event, the Crusade should announce as soon as possible that it has decided to accept funds for the American Committee. Arrangements will be made with Crusade officials to solicit funds during the 1952 campaign in such a way as to enable it to turn over a portion of these funds to the American Committee.

c. With regard to the need of explaining the Committee's principles and purposes to interested persons inside and outside the several branches of the Government, it was agreed that Admiral Kirk can and should regard such explanation as one of his more important tasks.

d. There was general agreement that Admiral Kirk should go slowly in his meetings with Russian and non-Russian emigres. Mr. Bohlen urged that the Admiral first interview the American spokesmen for or supporters of these emigres. Mr. Stevens stressed that the Admiral should, insofar as possible, keep the emigres themselves at arm's length.

e. Although no conclusions were reached, there was considerable discussion of the sort of auspices that will prevent the Committee's proposed radio program from becoming just another American radio in Europe. Mr. Bohlen said there are three views with regard to the Political Center that the American Committee is trying to establish: (a) the Center is a political impossibility; (b) it would be preferable to organize an auspices on a purely cultural or individual basis-- rather than the group approach that it now being pursued; (c) a purely Great Russian center would be relatively simple to establish and should be set up for relative ease of operations.

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Generally speaking, the consensus of the meeting was that something less than an ideal Center as originally conceived would be acceptable to the State Department, but the importance of a genuine Russian suspense far outweighs the value of the radio program as such; it is preferable to wait a month or so before broadcasting in order to obtain a valid suspense, than it is to start broadcasting as soon as possible under a sponsorship that is transparently thin.



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## Distribution:

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