

**April 4, 1952**

## **Senate Staff Member Criticizes Radio Free Europe**

### **Citation:**

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### **Summary:**

Richard Arens, counsel for the Senate's Internal Security Subcommittee, accuses Radio Free Europe of harboring Marxists and broadcasting left-wing and socialist propaganda.

### **Credits:**

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Memorandum for the Record  
Subject: Meeting between Admiral Miller and the McCarran Committee staff.

1. On 25 March Mr. Richard Arens, Counsel for the Immigration Subcommittee and Staff Director of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee (all three headed by Senator McCarran), together with his assistant, Mr. Frank Schroeder, made available to me their views regarding the National Committee for Free Europe. Their initial comments were extremely hostile to NCFE, indicating that there were many Marxists in the group, and that they were putting out left wing and socialist propaganda. Mr. Arens stated that there were several witnesses prepared to testify before the Committee that the entire operation is "rotten" and that it is financed by CIA. In fact, it was indicated to me that the fact that CIA is financing NCFE is common gossip among many alien groups in New York.

2. At this meeting Mr. Arens expressed considerable feeling regarding the number of private bills being introduced for NCFE employees. He pointed out that most of these foreigners entered this country on temporary visas and that many were then converted to permanent residents by private bills. He stated that if it was not a Government organization financed by CIA or State, there seemed to be no reason to give these aliens preferential treatment, and that they should rely on normal quotas for admission. I pointed out to him that CIA was not sponsoring these bills and that he might address any questions he had on that subject to Admiral Miller, the responsible head of NCFE. Furthermore, I suggested that, in view of the nature of the work of NCFE and its components -- Crusade for Freedom and Radio Free Europe, rather than air his charges, he should discuss the whole matter with Admiral Miller, whom he would find extremely sympathetic. I offered my services to bring him and the Admiral together as I had known the Admiral for several years.

3. I finally secured an admission from Mr. Arens that basically the programs of NCFE and its components were extremely valuable, were making a fine contribution to the cold war, and should probably be continued, but that there were certain reservations which they had regarding the operation.

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4. I subsequently discussed this meeting with Mr. Dulles and Admiral Miller and recommended that I be permitted to arrange a meeting between the Committee staff and Admiral Miller, and this was approved.

5. On 2 April Admiral Miller met with Messrs. Arens and Schroeder and discussed the problems outlined above. It can be stated that the entire meeting was held in an atmosphere of extreme cordiality and cooperation.

6. Mr. Arens commenced with a brief statement of certain of his views, as indicated above, and Admiral Miller outlined some of the background of NCFE. Mr. Arens then asked how it was financed, and he was informed that it was financed in part by public subscription, in part by foundations, and that certain covert aspects were covered occasionally by Government funds. (When Mr. Arens left the meeting I stressed to him the fact that he should not mention any Government aspects of NCFE, and he said he would not, but that we should not "hid" ourselves that many people did not realize that CIA particularly had a financial interest in the operation).

7. The second point in which interest was expressed was the manner of clearing Committee employees. Admiral Miller explained that the Committee's employees were checked both in the United States and abroad through the facilities of the FBI, CIA, BBC, CIC, and every other available means. Mr. Arens pointed out that it was always possible for a sleeper to slip into an organization, but was assured that if any such case developed the employee would be ousted immediately.

8. The next point raised was a report which the Senate Committee had that several former State Department employees who had left the Department under a loyalty or security cloud had secured employment with NCFE. Admiral Miller promised a complete study of this point.

9. Considerable discussion then took place regarding [redacted] who heads the National Council for a [redacted]. Mr. Schroeder read extracts from several reports in his possession concerning [redacted] and his unreliability. It was pointed out that [redacted] boasted that through a State Department connection he

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could control the visas received by [redacted] that he controlled certain people on the [redacted] desk in [redacted] and in RFE. The Committee also had testimony that [redacted] kept three sets of books -- one for the [redacted] Council, one for NCFE, and one to which only he and his secretary had access. It was alleged that he also threw around the name of CIA rather loosely.

10. Mr. Arons raised the case of [redacted] whose entry into the United States was allegedly sponsored by NCFE. It was pointed out that [redacted] wife was alleged to be a Communist agent and that [redacted] himself had an unsavory reputation.

11. Mr. Schroeder indicated that he wished to introduce Admiral Miller to certain people in New York who were knowledgeable on NCFE problems, and Admiral Miller urged that there be further talks between them.

Walter L. Pflanzheimer  
Legislative Counsel

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