

February 11, 1953

State Department Views of Radio Liberty Broadcasting

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Summary:

The State Department comments on the January 22, 1953 CIA paper ["Radio Liberty Editorial Policies Defined"], raising the issue of likely restraints from West Germany when it regains sovereignty.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : Colonel Zierath

DATE: February 11, 1953

FROM : Outerbridge Horsey

S/P (via Joyce)

SUBJECT: AMCOM Radio Program.

Two major problems seem to be involved in the AMCOM radio program so far as Germany is concerned: problems of radio sovereignty arising in connection with the origination of non-German programs from German soil and problems of policy arising in connection with the propagation of controversial issues and others possibly deviating from or conflicting with views held by the host country.

The first type of problem will be solved, once the agreement between AMCOM and the Government of the Federal Republic has been signed and ratified. Pending such action, AMCOM may be able to operate by derivative use of the rights now exercised by the United States as an occupying power and by the latter's explicit sufferance.

The second type of problems may become acute on a case to case basis, once operations have gotten under way. However, in order to reduce the conceivable margin of friction, it might be advisable to clarify some of the terms of reference and guidance points with appropriate offices in HICOG, and upon their concurrence and views, with the proper German authorities, before arrangements are finalized and the program is actually carried out. This suggestion is made specifically in consideration of the stated purpose of AMCOM and of some of the guidance points, notably those listed under I A, B, 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7. It is conceivable that the Government of the Federal Republic may wish to raise questions and possibly seek to obtain assurances in return for permitting or tolerating issuance of propaganda from German territory which ostensibly advocates policies espoused by foreign governments and foreign minorities, which addresses itself to, and is designed to interfere with, internal conditions in another sovereign country, e.g., the USSR, and which by its intent and anticipated effects may be considered by that country as a direct violation of established rules of international conduct. It appears most likely that this contingency will arise in connection with the "liberation" theme which, it is explained, calls for "liberation from Soviet tyranny", "liberation from police rule," etc.

Moreover

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Moreover there seems to be little ground to believe that the policy laid down for Radio Liberation would long survive the reestablishment of German sovereignty.

Concerning individual points in the memorandum the following suggestions are made:

1. Point 8 - "Acknowledgment of Past Mistakes in Policy and Strategy" - might well be eliminated. It is next to impossible to treat this subject with plausibility and effectiveness, and it would probably only confuse the listeners. Emphasis should rather be on present policies, such as that followed by Western Powers in Korea.

2. Page 1, point, 1, line 8 "the present Soviet regime" might be used in place of "their".

3. Page 5, point 9, line "and on the Free World" to be added after "material on the USSR".

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