

October 25, 1956

Guidance for Radio Free Europe Broadcasts

Citation:

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Summary:

CIA/International Operations Division guidance for Radio Free Europe at the outset of the Hungarian Revolution calls for extensive use of President Eisenhower's September 23 statement on maintaining the spirit of freedom and for caution in pre-judging Imre Nagy.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: RFE Guidance, October 24, 1956, for Hungarian Developments

1. Heavy and detailed coverage of Hungarian developments should be played extensively to all targets. These news reports should take priority over all other broadcasts.
2. A parallel may be drawn between the popular Poznan uprising and the participation of the non-Communist individuals in the uprising in Budapest.
3. Hungarian developments demonstrate the irresistible desire for real freedom and an expression by the people to move for action to satisfy that desire.
4. The use of Soviet troops should be treated as a crime and an outrageous indignity to the people of Hungary. It should be pointed out that if the demands of the people of Hungary were met, there would be no need for troop action, either Soviet or Hungarian.
5. Do not prejudice the action of Nagy and Gombas. We must know more about their actual policies.
6. Despite the foregoing, Radio is authorized to indicate that the Nagy Government will have to live down calling in Soviet troops to restore order. This deed can be lived down only by keeping promises to the people for establishing a climate of real freedom and material satisfaction for which the people yearn.
7. Quote extensively from the Eisenhower message of September 23, using particularly, "A people which has once known freedom cannot be deprived for always of its national independence and its personal liberty. This truth applies to all people in Eastern Europe. Love of freedom is more enduring than the power of tyrants".

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