

March 5, 1957

**State Department and CIA Officials Discuss Radio
Free Europe and Radio Liberation**

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Summary:

Robert Murphy, Allen Dulles, and other officials review on March 2 State Department recommendations contained in a memorandum dated January 10 [document not released] and agree that the charter of the Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy (CRBP) include drafting Radio Free Europe (RFE) country policy guidances and considering reductions in RFE broadcasts

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CONFIDENTIAL

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5 March 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Under Secretary of State
 Robert G. Murphy on Saturday, 2 March

REFERENCE: Department of State Memo, dated
 10 January 1957

PARTICIPANTS: State: Mr. Robert G. Murphy
 Mr. W. Tapley Bennett, Jr.
 Mr. R. Borden Reanus
 Mr. Jack Warner

GIA: Mr. Allen W. Dulles
 Mr. Frank G. Wisner
 Mr. Cord Meyer, Jr.

1. It was agreed that the problems raised in above reference were of sufficient scope and complexity to require the formation of a joint State, CIA and USIA Special Committee within the terms of the OGB mechanism. Mr. E. Allan Lightner, Jr. of State was accepted as Chairman, and Mr. Reanus as the other State member. For CIA it was agreed that Mr. FitzGerald and Mr. Meyer would be the Agency's two representatives. Mr. Sutton was agreed to as one of the USIA representatives and State undertook to discuss with USIA the nomination of a second representative to replace Mr. Berding who had previously been suggested, but who is now unavailable. State accepted the responsibility of calling the Committee together.

2. Regarding the issue of budgetary priorities as raised in Recommendation No. 1 of reference, Mr. Dulles pointed out that there were no present plans for the physical expansion of RFE

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facilities and that, therefore, in FY '58 there was no budgetary priority problem affecting RFE. It was noted that a sharp deterioration of RFE's position in Germany might require the expansion of programming facilities in London and this issue would have to be faced when and if it arose.

3. Regarding Recommendation No. 2 of reference, the history of Radio Liberation's negotiations with the Spanish Government for a base near Barcelona was rehearsed. It was made clear that the Department of State had previously approved this negotiating effort, that the Bureau of the Budget had earmarked funds from the Agency's reserve for this project and that Radio Liberation was in need of urgent advice as to whether to sign an acceptable contract for the initial installation of a 100-kw transmitter in Spain. Mr. Murphy said that the Bureau of the Budget had recently questioned him as to whether the State Department would still grant policy approval to such an expansion. Mr. Murphy stated that he had not given a yes or no answer to the Bureau and he agreed that this issue should be placed before the Special Committee defined above for immediate resolution.

4. An extended discussion took place regarding Recommendation No. 3 of reference. Mr. Murphy said that the recent Hungarian Revolution and the reaction of the Hungarian refugees had raised serious doubts in the Department as to the advisability of continuing RFE as a broadcasting effort to the Satellites, as distinct from VOA. He indicated that communications from a number of Ambassadors in the Satellite area had re-enforced these doubts and that another contributing factor was the poll recently conducted among Hungarian refugees by two Foreign Service Officers especially assigned to this task. Mr. Dulles indicated that he had seen no conclusive and convincing evidence that there was a present need for reducing the RFE broadcasts to either Hungary or Poland or the other Satellites. Reference was made by Mr. Meyer to the extensive scientific poll conducted by the International Research Associates among Hungarian refugees, to the statement calling for the continuing of RFE made by the Hungarian Revolutionary Council and to the number of indications from within Poland that RFE was playing an effective and responsible role in Polish efforts to secure a degree of independence from the Soviets. The State representatives agreed that the situation in Hungary had changed

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since the time reference was drafted in December, and that no reduction of RFE broadcasting to Hungary was advisable at this time, but they did feel that the delicate situation in Poland did require reconsideration. It was agreed that the considerable body of somewhat conflicting evidence available on RFE broadcasting be reviewed by the Special Committee, with the request that it come up with recommendations as to what if any reduction seemed advisable.

5. Regarding Recommendation No. 4 of reference, it was agreed that the State Department should continue to proceed with its preparation of the country guidance papers for each of the five Satellites. These would be considered jointly by State and CIA and then submitted to the Special Committee for final review.

6. Regarding Recommendation No. 5 of reference, it was fully agreed that both RFE and Radio Liberation should continue to conform in their output to U. S. policy guidance. It was agreed that RFE's Polish Desk had demonstrated admirable discipline and self-restraint in following policy under difficult and confusing circumstances, and it was pointed out by the CIA representatives that policy controls had been substantially strengthened within the Hungarian Desk and some changes made in its personnel to avoid such deviations as may have occurred during the course of the Hungarian Revolution.

7. Regarding Recommendation No. 6 of reference, Mr. Dulles noted that the organized national councils of the Eastern European emigration were not permitted to exercise control over the policy or the staffing of the RFE program desks, that individuals for those desks were hired on the basis of journalistic talent and protected by the American staff as far as possible from the maneuvering of the emigre political factions. In this connection Mr. Dulles raised the question of previous State policy.

It was agreed that events had overtaken policy in this field, and that the old structure that the Free Europe Committee had been required to undertake should be reviewed jointly by State and CIA. It was felt that this issue should not be submitted to the Special Committee since USIA is not involved.

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8. Regarding Recommendation No. 7 of reference, there was agreement that the problem of increased broadcasting to the Asian-African area should be a subject of separate discussion between State, CIA and USIA, rather than being included on the Agenda of the Special Committee.

9. Regarding Recommendation No. 8 of reference, there was agreement that efforts to reduce dependence on Germany by diversifying broadcasting sites should be continued and Mr. Wiener pointed out that Radio Liberation's attempts to secure a base in Spain were motivated by just this consideration.

10. Regarding Recommendation No. 9 of reference, Messrs. Murphy and Dulles agreed that there was, at this time, no need for creating a committee of outside consultants to formulate additional recommendations. Rather, it was hoped that the Special Committee to be established would adequately fill this role.

CORD MEYER, JR.

CORD MEYER, JR.
Chief

International Organizations Division

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