

June 15, 1958

Gray Broadcasting Operations

Citation:

"Gray Broadcasting Operations", June 15, 1958, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Obtained and contributed to CWIHP by A. Ross Johnson. Cited in his book Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, CIA mandatory declassification review document number MORI 1137562, 1137559. <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/115024>

Summary:

Attachments to a letter from Allen Dulles to President Eisenhower define "gray broadcasting" and summarize Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty operations.

Credits:

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English

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GRAY BROADCASTING OPERATIONS

Proprietary Operations

1. Radio Free Europe - broadcasts to Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria over 14 shortwave and one medium wave transmitters based near Munich, Germany, and 13 shortwave transmitters located near Lisbon, Portugal, with a total power of 1215 kilowatts. Total transmitter broadcast time averages 2600 hours weekly.

RFE's policy and role have been carefully defined by the Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy (State, USIA, CIA representatives). Distinct from the Voice of America, RFE is "a voice of the people of free Western nations dedicated to the interest of Eastern Europe" and "an instrument unattributable to the U. S. Government for the furthering of the U. S. policy objectives." RFE maintains flexibility and objectivity. It lays more emphasis on European ideas, events and developments both within and outside the orbit than does VOA.

Annual Operating Expense:
Cumulative Capital Expenditure through May 1958:
Projected Capital Expenditure

2. Radio Liberation is targeted to the Soviet Union and to Soviet forces in Eastern Europe. It broadcasts in 17 languages of the USSR a total of 239 transmitter hours daily. Nine shortwave transmitters in West Germany (total power of 300 kilowatts) cover Western USSR and Soviet Forces in East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Rumania; four shortwave transmitters leased from the Broadcasting Corporation of China in Taiwan (total power of 120 kilowatts) cover parts of the Soviet Far East extending from Eastern Siberia to the Maritime Provinces. The activation of a third Radio Liberation shortwave broadcast station, targeted to the western USSR, is now in progress in Spain. This facility, eventually to employ 1,100 kilowatt power, is expected to aid materially in overcoming Soviet jamming.

The program approach and policy governing all Radio Liberation broadcasts are controlled through an official policy document issued by the Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy.

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Annual Operating Expense: [redacted]
Cumulative Capital Expenditure through May 1958: [redacted]
Projected Capital Expenditure: [redacted]

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GRAY BROADCASTING OPERATIONS

Are those which do not reveal to the target audience that the U. S. Government is the true source. They plausibly appear to emanate from an indigenous, non-hostile source, a non-official American source, or there may be no attribution. They present information whose content is such that its effect will be increased if the hand of the U. S. Government and in some cases any American participation are not revealed. They present viewpoints which are in the interest of U. S. foreign policy, but which will be acceptable or more acceptable to the intended target audience than will an official U. S. Government statement.

Gray broadcasting consists for the most part of regularly scheduled programming presented on authorized frequencies over established and recognized broadcasting facilities.

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