

November 30, 1960

Ambassador Beam Remains Critical of Radio Free Europe Polish Broadcasts

Citation:

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Summary:

Ambassador Beam responds to Allen Dulles' letter of November 13, 1960 [document not released] about RFE Polish broadcasts

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

American Embassy,
Warsaw, Poland,
November 30, 1960.

SECRET

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I am gratified for your letter of November 13, 1960 about RFE and am happy to learn that Frank Jones was helpful to you on his trip home. Generally speaking we hold similar views about the potential utility of the station, the need for close supervision and our responsibility here for suggesting improvements.

There is no doubt RFE continues to hold a large audience. I still feel, however, it is on the air too long, is susceptible, although less frequently, to emigre vindictiveness, and would profit from new ideas and program variety along the lines of the BBC cultural attractions you mentioned. (Frank is sending you a letter addressed to Munich with two recent complaints.)

I regret we have not done as much as we should in keeping watch here. This has been partly due to staff changes which are now shaking down. We continue to review scripts from Munich but this is not the same as actually getting our impressions first-hand. We think the best way to proceed would be to set up a roster of monitors from among four or five of our language officers with the Political-Economic and Press and Cultural Sections. This would obviate the need for additional help, which you so kindly offered but which would create a hopping problem at this time. It would also sustain interest among the staff rather than result in placing the burden on one man. Although trying for as complete coverage as possible, a system of standard spot checks may yield what is required.

We shall institute action on the above lines right away and I hope we can produce something useful. I should be most happy to supplement our efforts by occasional visits by Embassy officers to American counterparts in Munich although I consider it preferable if they stayed away from the Polish element.

I was greatly . . .

The Honorable
Allen W. Dulles,
Director,
Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington, D. C.

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I was greatly reassured to learn that you will continue in service in Washington and stand ready to be of any help I can.

With kind regards,

Respectfully,

Jacob D. Bean
Ambassador

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