

February 20, 1969

Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty Excluded from Katzenbach Committee Restrictions

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Summary:

Henry Kissinger informs President Nixon of the 303 Committee's determination that RFE and RL are not "private voluntary organizations" and not subject to the policy recommendations of the Katzenbach Committee ban on covert federal funding

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

~~SECRET EYES ONLY~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Disposition of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty

At its meeting on February 5, 1969, the 303 Committee discussed the disposition to be made of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. The Director of the Bureau of the Budget was also present for the discussion in which various alternatives were considered. The subject was again considered in the 303 Committee meeting on February 11th. Both Radios have been the subjects of previous exhaustive studies and evaluations by governmental and nongovernmental committees which have affirmed their considerable value in support of U.S. policy objectives.

The Katzenbach Committee report, approved by President Johnson on March 29, 1967, and released to the press, stated: "It should be the policy of the United States Government that no federal agency shall provide any covert financial assistance or support, direct or indirect, to any of the nation's educational or private voluntary organizations."

The Katzenbach report provided for an exception in contingencies where "overriding national security interests" so require and where the exception receives the specific approval of the Secretaries of State and Defense.

In its deliberations the 303 Committee members concluded that the Radios are not among the nation's private voluntary organizations and hence are not in fact subject to the policy recommendations of the Katzenbach Committee.

~~SECRET EYES ONLY~~

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