

1970

Briefing Book on Radio Liberty Committee

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Summary:

CIA reviews RL history in a briefing book (extract)

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(1970)

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BRIEFING BOOK
ON
RADIO LIBERTY COMMITTEE, INC.
(RABLIBCOM)

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RLC BRIEFING BOOK

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The primary mission of the Radio Liberty Committee is to communicate to the peoples of the USSR through former Soviet citizens democratic ideas and information designed to stimulate the desire for freedom with the ultimate objectives of replacing the Soviet Communist dictatorship by a government which is a responsible and cooperative member of the family of nations and responsive to a well-informed citizenry.

Essential to this mission are the cooperation of moderate elements of the emigration from the USSR and reliable research on Soviet developments; it is the secondary mission of the Radio Liberty Committee to use emigre cooperation and the results of research to direct propaganda into the free world designed to weaken the power and prestige of the Soviet dictatorship.

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- a. Project suggested by Department of State, 13 September 1949. (Kennan memo to Wisner, Subject: Organization of Russian Refugees in Germany and Austria.)
- b. Original Project Outline approved in CIA 12 December 1949.
- c. DCI authorized initiation of radio broadcasting 27 October 1951, resulting in creation of Radio Liberation.
- d. Jackson Committee Report, approved by Operations Coordinating Board on 30 September 1953, recommended that AmComLib de-emphasize its efforts to unify the emigration and proceed with the improvement of radio broadcasts independent of emigre control. It further recommended that "all broadcast material to the Soviet system for which the United States Government does not wish to accept responsibility should be handled by RFE, Radio Liberation, or other covert channels." The Committee Report also recommended the strengthening of Radio Liberation broadcast facilities.
- e. NSC 5502/1, 31 January 1955, directed the continued support and, where feasible and desirable, strengthening of the American Committee for Liberation.
- f. Designated Representatives (NSC 5412) approved establishment of Radio Liberation relay base in Spain, 25 September 1957.
- g. Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy defined U.S. policy for, and operating role of, Radio Liberation, 1 May 1958.
- h. NSC 5906/1, 22 September 1959, directs the use of mass media for:
- (1) "Giving to the peoples of Communist nations...a clear conception of the true U.S. and Free World purposes...and...to correct the distorted Communist view of the world."
 - (2) "Convincing the Communist leaders and their peoples that there are alternatives to the regime's present policies...and which they should come to consider compatible with their own security interests."
 - (3) Encouraging the Communist regimes to take measures which make more difficult the reversal of policies more acceptable to us."
 - (4) Sustaining current ferment in the thinking and fastening evolutionary trends within the Bloc."
 - (5) Encouraging popular pressures on the Bloc leaders for greater emphasis on the legitimate needs and national aspirations of their peoples...and to undermine the faith of the Communist ruling classes in their own system and ideology."

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(Policy Approvals, continued)

i. 31 Aug. 1961. Missions of RFE and RL as the major non-official Western radios challenging Communist efforts to secure a monopoly on information and ideas in Eastern Europe were reaffirmed by the Special Group.

j. RL Russian language broadcasts to Soviet personnel in Cuba were approved by State Dept. in April 1953 and by the 5412 Group on 4 April 1963. The cessation of these broadcasts in November 1963 was reported to State.

k. 15 August 1963. Missions of RFE and RL were reapproved by the Special Group when it agreed that no change in existing policy on the radios was desirable.

l. 12 December 1963. Special Group agreed that FEC, RFE, ACL and RL should continue.

m. December 1963. Radio Broadcasting Policy Committee approved an updated "Gray Broadcasting Policy toward the Soviet Union."

n. April 1964. At the request of the Department of State a full day's program of RL in all languages was provided in English translation for policy review. No written report was received, but favorable comments were provided orally by Ambassador Thompson, with some helpful suggestions.

o. On 3 March 1965 Ambassador Thompson in the Department of State offered his support

p. March 1965. A new RL Policy Manual (based on Gray Paper) was approved by the Radio Broadcasting Policy Committee.

q. 28 April 1966. Panel on U. S. Government Radio Broadcasts to the Communist Bloc (appointed by McGeorge Bundy, then Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs) agreed that the need to maintain RFE and RL was greater than ever and proposed that more attention be given to Central Asia by RL.

r. 29 Sept 1966. The Special Group reaffirmed the missions of RFE and RL and agreed that their broadcasting facilities should be maintained at their present effectiveness, including measures for modernization.

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West Germany (Lampertheim) 6-50 KW and 2-20 KW shortwave transmitters, total power 340 KW (4-50's installed in 1958, 2 in 1963. 20's paralleled in 1958/6 from 1953 10's.)
On air 1,060 hours weekly in 17 languages of USSR.

Target: USSR, Soviet forces in East Germany, Poland, Hungary

Facilities owned by RL. German license valid to 9 July 1971. Broadcasts commenced 1 March 1953.

Spain (Playa del Pals) 5-250 KW and 1-100 KW shortwave transmitters, total power 1,350 KW (100 installed 1959, 4-250's 1960, 1-250 1964)
On air 740 hours weekly in Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian

Target: European USSR, Soviet forces in East Europe

Facilities owned by RL during term of lease. Spanish Government lease valid to 23 March 1971 and renewable. Broadcasts commenced 23 March 1959.

Taiwan (Pa-Li) 3-50 shortwave transmitters, total power 150 KW.
On air 168 hours weekly in Russian.

Target: Soviet Maritime Provinces and Eastern Siberia.

Transmitters leased 8 hours per day from Broadcasting Corporation of China; antennas owned by RL. Agreement valid to 1975.
Broadcasts commenced 1 May 1955.

(Programs produced in Munich with contributions from New York correspondents in London and Paris and stringers in major capitals carried by landline and radio telegraph to Lampertheim, Spain and Taiwan)

Monitors Five technical monitoring stations: Helsinki, Berlin, Vienna, Trabzon, Sapporo

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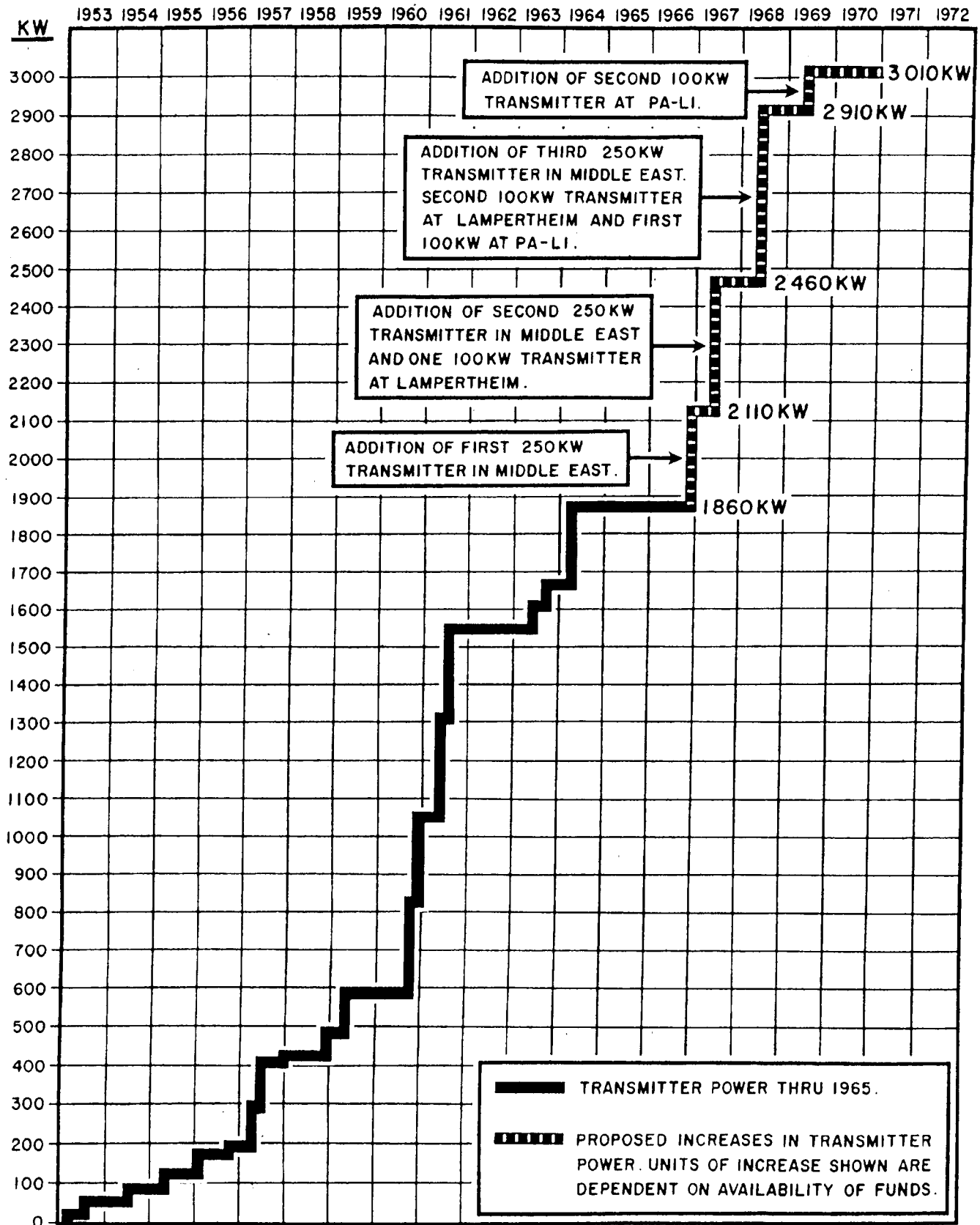
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20 DEC 1965

RADIO LIBERTY PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE TRANSMITTER POWER (ALL STATIONS)

Att: Christine JCR
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RLC BRIEFING BOOK

PERSONNEL

	<u>Munich</u>	<u>Spain</u>	<u>Taiwan</u>			TOTAL
American						
Emigre & Indigenous						
Total						

OFFICERS:

- [redacted], President RLC since 1955.
- [redacted], Executive Director Radio Liberty
- [redacted] Advisor to President [redacted]
- [redacted] Director Radio Liberty Programming
- [redacted] U.S. Army Retired, Director Radio Liberty Engineering
- [redacted], Assistant to the President
- [redacted], Director Information Services
- [redacted], Director Special Projects
- [redacted] Deputy Director Institute for Study of USSR

TRUSTEES:

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

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Russia. Since our radio reports nothing that is not necessary . . . I listen to you for the most part. I purposely did not put the name of your radio station in quotation marks, because the name justifies itself. . .

Listener in Bryansk Oblast,
RSTSR

Official U.S. Reactions

During 1958, a working group assigned by the Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy (State, USIA, CIA) to review a random sample of Radio Liberty's Russian-language programs for the purpose of monitoring the radio's adherence to official policy found:

- a. The scripts faithfully followed basic policy directives.
- b. The broadcasts reviewed "struck a good balance in tone, containing not too much invective while at the same time not being overly mild."
- c. The broadcast materials were, "on the whole, very skillfully handled. . ."

A report by the Department of State in January 1960, answering questions raised by the Chairman of the U. S. Advisory Commission on Information, said:

. . . From a sustained observation of broadcasts on sensitive situations, it may be stated that, to the Department's knowledge, since 1956 there have been no broadcasts to the USSR or Eastern Europe by any of the American radios in question (VOA, RL, RFE) which could correctly be categorized as inciting to revolution or appealing for "liberation".

In 1961 a Department of State Airgram from the Consulate General, Munich, reporting on the increased effectiveness of Radio Liberty following the installation of the new transmitters in Spain, commented:

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The stepped-up effectiveness of Radio Liberty's anti-regime broadcasts to the Soviet Union is significant as a political fact in United States-Soviet relations, as well as a tactical psychological gain for the West.

Strong endorsement for the missions of both Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe has recently come from the Panel on U. S. Government Radio Broadcasts to the Communist Bloc which was appointed in 1965 by the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. In its report submitted to the 903 Committee in April 1966, the Panel found that in coming years, given the possibility of greater internal national tensions and intellectual ferment in the Soviet Union, Radio Liberty would be "at least as necessary as now," and "may well become more important than it has been in the past". The Panel also failed to find that the radio was in any way detrimental to U. S. policy interests.

In addition to the above instances, informal concurrence in Radio Liberty's policies and support for the radio's activities have recently been expressed by, among others, Deputy Under Secretary U. Alexis Johnson, Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson, Ambassador Foy Kohler, USIA Assistant Director for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe Richard Davies, and VOA Russian Branch Chief Terrence Catherman in the course of frequent contact which the radio maintains with these and other high officials in Washington. In September 1965 Ambassador Kohler also specified to Radio Liberty officers his personal approval of the radio's proposal for a new transmitting site in the Middle East.

Program Reviews and Evaluations

Radio Liberty maintains the following four series of review and evaluation reports for the purpose of examining all aspects of the radio's broadcasts, including content, quality, and policy:

a. Quality Control Reports -- blocks of programming for a single day are reviewed several times a month by a nine member panel of recent defectors and Soviet specialists chosen with the intention of composing the best available representative audience. Panel reviews the broadcasts for the tone, content, credibility, and constructiveness of the program, as well as for sufficiency of data, effectiveness of language, and delivery of broadcast.

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