

## **June 16, 1971**

# **Helms Seeks Advice from Office of Management and Budget Director**

### **Citation:**

"Helms Seeks Advice from Office of Management and Budget Director", June 16, 1971, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Obtained and contributed to CWIHP by A. Ross Johnson. Cited Ch8 n52 in his book Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, CIA mandatory declassification review document number C01434023.  
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/115133>

### **Summary:**

In the absence of Congressional action on funding RFE and RL after June 30, 1971, Richard Helms seeks advice from Office of Management and Budget Director George Shultz on "what the Administration desires that the Central Intelligence Agency do about the funding and the management of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, effective 1 July 1971." [Published as document 55, FRUS, 1969-76, XXIX]

### **Credits:**

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### **Original Language:**

English

### **Contents:**

Original Scan

NSF, Subject Files,  
SEC- Box 37d, Folder 8  
(RFEIRL, Vol. 1)

~~Reference to the files  
of the [unclear]  
Management Staff~~



**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

RFE 27/1

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16 JUN 1971

The Honorable George P. Shultz, Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear George:

I am writing to bring to your attention the very acute dilemma which we now face with regard to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty and to request your guidance with regard to the responsibilities of the Central Intelligence Agency after 30 June 1971. I believe you are familiar with my memorandum of 11 May 1971 to the President on this subject. I attach a copy for your ready reference. Your staff has been good enough to provide me with a copy of your letter of 9 June 1971 to Senator Ellender, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and his reply thereto of 10 June 1971.

As I understand the situation, Senator Case's bill to establish a new funding mechanism seems to have no chance of passage prior to the end of this fiscal year. It is also my understanding that the Central Intelligence Agency is precluded from any further funding of the radios after that date, either for continued operation or termination.

The Radios are United States Government proprietaries. I therefore believe the Government is both morally and legally obliged to take some action to continue them, at least on an interim basis, or to terminate them as of 1 July 1971. The funds the Radios now have on hand would permit continued operation for no more than 30 to 45 days in the new fiscal year. Both will need guidance within the next few days in order to plan for the first weeks of Fiscal Year 1972. In the event that termination is to take place, costs associated with such action are estimated by the radios to be [redacted] for Radio Free Europe and [redacted] for Radio Liberty. However realistic these estimates may be, it is clear that a substantial amount of money would be involved. Reserves available for liquidation are

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document is confidential  
information~~

RFE 27/2

only [ ] for Radio Free Europe and [ ] for Radio  
Liberty.

I should like to request that you advise me as early as possible as to what the Administration desires that the Central Intelligence Agency do about the funding and the management of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe, effective 1 July 1971.

Sincerely,



Richard Helms  
Director

Attachment  
Memorandum for The President  
dated 11 May 1971

Copy to:  
The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs