

November 1, 1949

**Memorandum for Mr. Wisner, 'HCFE Broadcasting
(Interim Report)' [Approved for Release, November
7, 2012]**

Citation:

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Summary:

An official from the Department of State, the Office of Policy Coordination updates Frank Wisner on possibilities for providing the Free Europe Committee (FEC) with intelligence reports for use in planned Radio Free Europe broadcasts. He also suggests that Foreign Broadcast Information Bureau monitoring reports of Soviet bloc media can be provided, but only in English translations.

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English

Contents:

Original Scan

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1 November 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. WILSON

SUBJECT: NCFE Broadcasting (Interim Report)

This document is part of an integrated file. If separated from the file it must be subjected to individual systematic review.

1. I have talked so far to Ted Rabbitt, ADOR and [redacted] head of FBIS, both are anxious to help. Rabbitt, however, pointed out confidentially and caustically to me that the Branch concerned with the satellite areas is not one of his strongest. He said, moreover that ORF could not get into the business of providing daily support, scripts, etc. and had so informed the Voice in the past. He added however, that our project is in a somewhat different category and that they would be glad to help us to the limit of their capabilities.

2. I suggested that it would be helpful for our "backstop" group to receive, as frequently as it might prove feasible, suggestions as to lines of attack, vulnerabilities to be exploited and significant trends to be noted. I said moreover that we would welcome the designation of a point of contact in ORF with whom our people could work out a procedure for developing and receiving ORF research and analysis support. He suggested that [redacted] whom you will recall as a person who sought a job with us a year ago, would be the best point of contact. I said I did not know how favorably disposed [redacted] might be to us as we had turned him down for OPC, but added that if [redacted] understood that we did so because we felt he was a research type and we were not in that kind of business, there might be no reason to fear any lack of harmony.

3. Rabbitt said that his Balkan people are turning out a daily analysis of Soviet and Satellite propaganda broadcasts which he considers a bit thin and had even thought of cancelling. I said I would obtain samples of this publication and expressed the hope that he would not discontinue the publication until we had an opportunity to assess its usefulness to us. Rabbitt agreed. Rabbitt also said that we might even find it useful to set up some kind of a joint substantive support outfit. He did not elaborate.

4. I next saw [redacted] head of FBIS in [redacted] shop. He said that as long as we could conceal from the public the fact that large quantities of FBIS material was being made available to NCFE, he was prepared to give us full support. I said NCFE had felt a need for foreign broadcasts in their untranslated form. He pointed out the following problem: (a) that broadcasts from the eastern European areas in which NCFE would be interested are monitored and translated in the U.K. and Cyprus and these translations are transmitted to the U.S. for distribution to FBIS's customers by teletype and daily mimeographed bulletins; and (b) the bulk of the work on eastern Europe is done by the NSC. It would thus be prohibitively expensive

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to make available in the United States. I agreed that any direct negotiations we would have with the HEC would be made jointly with him or his representative, but pointed out that it was highly unlikely we would have any such direct dealings as we would prefer to use the Foreign Office as the cut-out in such instances. I queried him whether he thought that any declassification requirement presented itself in that portion of the FBIS tape in which HCFB is interested. He said, no. Certain FBIS material is classified restricted for copyright reasons only, he explained, but Satellite and Soviet propaganda would not be considered in such a sensitive category.

5. I was unable to reach [redacted] for a face to face chat prior to his departure for Italy, [redacted] and [redacted]. Chapple did not come down to Washington between the time you gave me this assignment and his departure on 31 October.

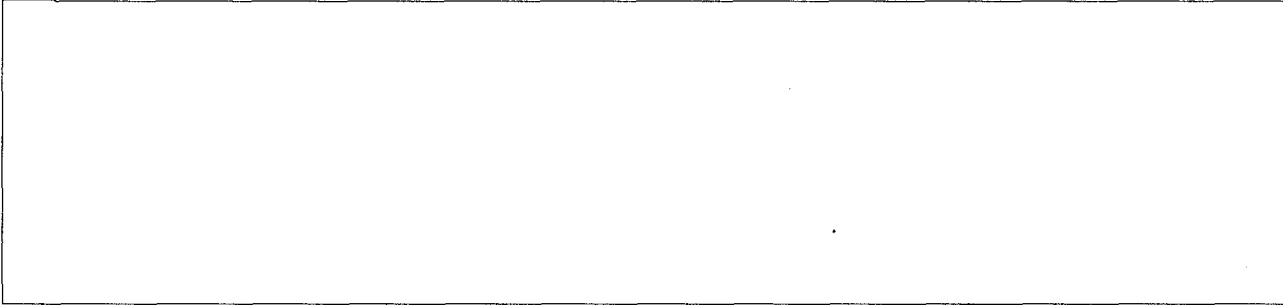
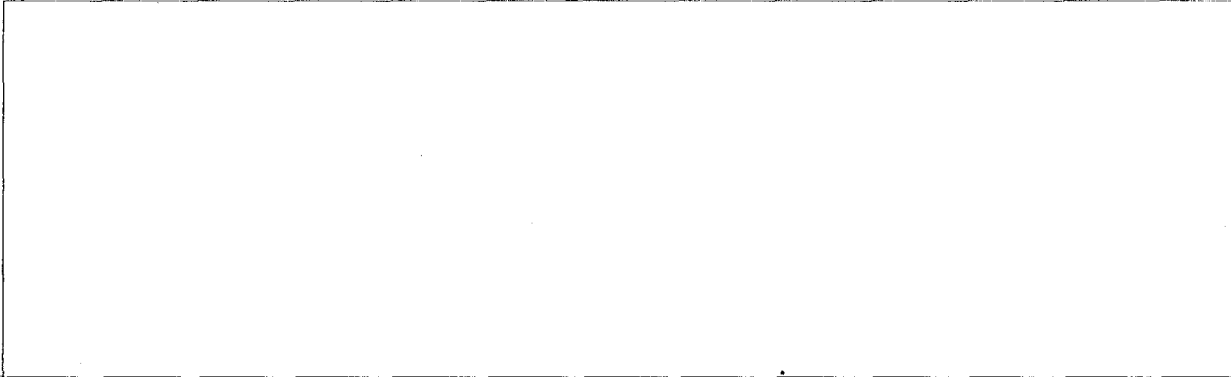
6. As I see it at this time we should give thought to an organization and procedure roughly along these lines:

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6. I should like to discuss tentative thoughts with you.



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