16 March 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MORGAN RICELE
Office of Eastern European Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT:  Support for Radio Broadcasting Program to Satellite Nations

DEPARTMENT:  Types of Information Desired

1. Pursuant to your conversation of 15 March with

   an outline is forwarded herewith which

   presents specific types of information desired for propaganda
   use. The outline does not propose to be restrictive in subject
   matter, but is meant to represent specific suggestions on what
   would be of interest.

2. It should be emphasized that even though we desire

   information that can be used to ridicule the Communists and
   their role, it would also be desirable to receive information
   of a positive nature. In relation to Communist leaders and
   their administrations, it will be necessary either to undermine
   them slowly or give them a build-up before delivering the knock-
   out punch. Consequently, we desire information which is of
   credit to leaders as much as we need that which is unfavorable
   to them.

3. It is not the plan to compare Satellite life to that

   in the United States; instead, it is the plan to make comparisons
   of the happier, more pleasant, freer days in the Satellite area
   to today's conditions when home life is subordinated to Communist
   Party demands.

4. Reports are desired which show how the rule of Communist

   regimes has affected the daily life of the Satellite peoples--
   not only adversely but also favorably. Specific points which
   should serve as examples of the types of information desired are
   listed in the enclosure to this memorandum. Your suggestions
   on other subject matter which you would consider useful will be
   welcomed.
5. It is proposed that such material be forwarded immediately; therefore, if the Department has information now which it would deem of interest to this project, it is requested that I be so advised. It is hoped that some of the information the Department may be able to supply will be of sufficient importance and timeliness to warrant cable transmission to Washington from the field.

6. It is understood that the Department will release for use in broadcasts only material which will not be so sensitive as to jeopardize foreign missions or personnel. Department reports used for propaganda broadcast purposes will be sterilized as to source.

7. [Blank] will act as points of contact for this material.
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TYPES OF INFORMATION DESIRED

1. Economic
(a) The quality and quantity of food, clothing, cigarettes.
(b) The health of the people (is food readily available, or are there widespread cases of malnutrition?).
(c) Material which shows that Communist promises have or have not been fulfilled, for example on wage increases.
(d) Description of the position of the small businessman; texts which show any restrictive regulations.
(e) Reports on new public construction, for whom it is ostensibly built and by whom it is actually and ultimately used.
(f) Retail price schedules.
(g) Regulations regarding the rationing of food, clothing, etc.
(h) Reports which refute government statements that economic plans have been fulfilled.
(i) Evidence of city water shortages which can be traced to Communist misadministration.
(j) Confirmed reports of impending devaluation of currency.

2. Educational
(a) The actual purpose of schools; the number of teachers as compared to the number of students; the use of school children to check the political inclinations of their parents.
(b) The content of confidential circulars to teachers telling them points to stress with students.

3. Political
(a) Songs which children, youth, women's organizations, workers, and soldiers are required to sing.
(b) Pamphlets showing how Communists impose their doctrines.
(c) Translation of Soviet and local Communist posters.
(d) Instructions given to party activists, block watchmen, janitors, chauffeurs, railway men, school principals.

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4. Religious

(a) Reports on anti-religious material in books, pamphlets, posters and party instructions (where available, the full texts in the original language).

5. Labor

(a) Material revealing the speed-up (Socialist competition) imposed by Communists on labor unions; material showing how labor has become enslaved pictures and reports relating to voluntary labor; material which shows the difference between free and Soviet-inspired unions.

(b) Activities in which trade unions are engaged.

(c) Lack or presence of safety equipment in factories.

6. Cultural

(a) Comparisons of the popularity of American and Soviet films shown in Satellite countries.

(b) Reports on Satellite sports festivals in which the Soviets compete; disputes which may arise between Satellite teams and Soviet teams over the outcome of athletic contests. Is there evidence that the Soviets enter only those events they are quite certain to win?

7. Sociological

(a) Material which describes Satellite home life, good or bad, as it has been adapted to meet Communist Party demands.

8. Other

(a) The unpublished news (the type censored out of State publications): good sharp jokes, amusing stories, anecdotes being told about Communist leaders.

(b) The street conversations.
(2) Profiteering for self or friends.
(3) Scurrilous dealing with public or followers.
(4) Contact with the West, ideological, social, or intellectual.
(5) Previous public statements subsequently recanted.
   a. Ostensibly praiseworthy deeds that would lend themselves
      to cynical interpretation.
   b. Personal information:
      (1) Telephone number, automobile license, home address.
      (2) Details of personal appearance: color of hair and
eyes, conspicuous features, height and weight,
physique, clothing.
      (3) Nervous habits: tics, chain-smoking, repeated
gestures, whistling (what tunes?).
      (4) Hobbies.
      (5) Special talents: music, sleight-of-hand.
      (6) Interest in sports.
      (7) Preference in food, drink, tobacco, clothing.
      (8) Pets (kind, names).
      (9) Bank accounts (how many, size, where).
      (10) Description of home and/or office.
      (11) Membership in organizations, clubs.
      (12) Favorite jokes, gestures, phrases, songs, books,
articles of clothing.

In other assignments will be submitted the names of persons on whom
personality information is desired. However, any information of the
type immediately above which could be forwarded voluntarily would be
appreciated.