NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 61

July 24, 1961

To: The Secretary of State
    The Secretary of Defense
    Director, U. S. Information Agency
    Director of Central Intelligence

Subject: Policy Guidance and Preemption of U. S. Government-Controlled Broadcasting

After consultation with the heads of departments and agencies concerned, the President has approved the following:

1. The Department of State shall provide foreign policy guidance to all international radio broadcasting and television stations controlled by U. S. Government agencies. This includes stations of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service and the Voice of the United Nations Command in Korea, operated by the Department of Defense, and those stations influenced or financed by the Central Intelligence Agency.

2. This guidance shall be relayed through the U. S. Information Agency, which will provide supplemental information policy guidance as required. The Director, U. S. Information Agency shall establish appropriate procedures for conveying guidance.

3. The Director, U. S. Information Agency is authorized to preempt time on any of these radio and television stations for special programs when he deems it to be in the national interest. The Director, U. S. Information Agency shall establish appropriate procedures for arranging for such special programs.

4. Every effort shall be made to avoid public awareness of the relationship between the various ostensibly non-governmental broadcasting stations and the U. S. Government.

/s/
McGeorge Bundy

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
    Secretary of the Army
    Secretary of the Navy
    Secretary of the Air Force
    Special Counsel to the President
    Military Representative to the President
    Military Aide to the President

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