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# July 13, 1962
# Memorandum by Stan Ward, 'Radio Liberty Programming'

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## Summary:

A CIA official reviews for AMCOMLIB President Sargeant criticisms of RL programing made by RL policy advisor Tuck and suggests the need for additional management editorial control of problematic RL scripts.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The President, AmComLib

ATTENTION: Assistant to the President

SUBJECT: Radio Liberty Programming

1. Recent correspondence by Bob Tuck, the RL policy advisor in Munich, indicates a cause for serious concern for all of us if the tone, approach and content of some RL programs continue to reflect what he reports.

2. Here are some of his criticisms and observations:

a) "We are again in danger of limiting ourselves to unproductive criticism of the regime from a generally negative point of view.... The propaganda image and impact for too many of our Soviet listeners which emerges from such treatment is, I am afraid, the following: Radio Liberty is so preoccupied with its own hatred of the Soviet regime and communism that it forgets the feelings, hopes and aspirations of citizens inside the USSR who willy-nilly must continue to live under that regime...." - From his memorandum concerning RL scripts on the Supreme Soviet elections, dated 27 February 1962 (which we received on 21 June).

b) "I am more and more concerned (if not distressed) at the many completely unnecessary digs and crudely propagandistic tone which keep recurring in too many scripts from all desks, even including the Russian. I thought I'd made some headway here with the editors at our desk review meetings and was just getting a bit optomistic when a number of rather primitive scripts hit us all at once...." - From his letter to Dupuy of 15 June 1962.

c) "All too many of Radio Liberty's scripts continue to be preoccupied with showing our hatred of the Soviet system and Communism instead of our interest and regard for the Soviet citizen himself. While there has been perceptible improvement in the recent past, too much of our programming is confined to the entirely negative line: Communism and the Soviet system are bad, and anyone who is forced to live under them is unfortunate, if not doomed to an existence of sheer misery...." - From his memorandum "Radio Liberty's task and tone today" dated 19 June (sent under covering memorandum to all Advisers under date of 22 June).

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3. We can only applaud the steps being taken in Munich to grapple with this problem, but we cannot but feel that the very existence of such a problem constitutes a severe indictment of the editorial supervision given to the writers and editors of the material about which Bob complains. The question occurs: How could the Advisors, the Program Manager and other supervisors let such things happen? Aren't they there to prevent this very sort of thing? One wonders, therefore, whether Bob's efforts really go far enough and in the right direction.

4. The matter of editorial supervision of emigre script writers has been discussed in the past by this writer with Bertrandias, including our recommendation that there be set up in Munich a "continuity desk," "script control desk," or however it is labeled, which could be charged with the responsibility for editing, re-writing or otherwise dealing with scripts which failed to conform to the letter and spirit of the Policy Manual. He felt at the time that this would not be feasible because of delicate emigre sensibilities. It seems to us, in the light of Bob's findings that such a control is necessary now more than ever.

5. Therefore, we renew our recommendation for a continuity desk, should it develop that the appropriate control cannot be applied by existing organizational positions.

STAN WARD

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