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April 19, 1967
Letter, Howland H. Sargeant to Cord [Meyer]

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Summary:

AMCOMLIB President Sargeant provides CIA official Cord Meyer with his views on alternative funding arrangements for RL and includes a draft (not attached).

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BOX 12 JOB 78-2912
BOX 12 FOLDER 1

April 19, 1967

(10)

Dear Cord:

The yellow copy, dated April 17th, sums up the major alternatives I reviewed with Dick on Monday morning. He seemed clear in his mind that--

1. Conversion of Radio Liberty Committee, Inc. to a profit-making corporation would ultimately involve all of us in more difficult problems of plausibility and public criticism;,

2. Any formula which ran the risk of re-negotiation of basic agreements and franchises with foreign governments was highly undesirable---- and he understodd that transfer of Radio Liberty Committee, Inc. to a jurisdiction other than the United States might open up re-negotiations, since we could not make such a transfer as far as I can see without getting the consent of the other contracting party--- the principal ones of course being Spain and the Federal Republic of Germany.

He then asked me to draft a proposal along the lines of the fourth formula--- support by a public entity specifically designed to foster public broadcasting. We agreed at my suggestion that I would do this, and would keep you informed at each step in the process, so we could arrange for review together at the appropriate time of the Draft. I also told Dick I would want to have your agreement that I could work closely with John Richardson along the way.

Here is the first very rough cut of such a proposal. I am sending a copy this afternoon by hand to John Richardson. In view of his departure for Europe Thursday evening, April 20th, I thought it important to get something in rough Draft as fast as possible so he could see it and give me his views on the next steps before he departs.

I have no illusions that this Draft is very good, but it is a starting point in which I have tried to concentrate especially on the basic philosophy to support such a proposal, and the definition of what radio braadcasts should be eligible for support.

HHS

Enclosures: 2

P.S. I took the opportunity of reviewing with Dick recent evidence of Radio Liberty's effectiveness, including giving him copies of the Audience Research report showing how a joint Radio Moscow-- CPSU Central Committee group review letters directed to RL and other foreign broadcasters, with letters to RL being more numerous than to other broadcasters. Also, of the interviews actually conducted with Moscow taxi-drivers.

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