

February 20, 1968

**Memorandum, Howland H. Sargeant to the [RLC]
Advisory Board, 'Contemplated Actions to Assure
the Future of RLC'**

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Summary:

RLC President Sargeant outlines for CIA his views on options for future funding of the RLC and advocates more RLC presence in Washington.

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MEMORANDUM TO: The Advisory Board

FROM: The President *AHS*

SUBJECT: Contemplated Actions to Assure the Future of RLC

Looking to the future of the Radio Liberty Committee beyond June 30, 1969 it seems to me that the major alternatives available to us are:

A return, assuming favorable conditions in 1969, to the pattern of previous years.

Establishment through legislation of a public/private mechanism to fund RLC, and comparable private organizations engaged in international communication by radio or other mass media.

To keep both of these options open I think it is prudent for me as President and general manager of this organization to take some steps immediately which in my judgement will strengthen this organization's position for continued support in the future. Therefore, on my return from Europe after the middle of March, I would like to discuss with you in principle these proposed actions:

I. Recruiting a permanent Washington representative for RL who could help this organization to maintain adequate contact with key people in the Executive Branch of the Government, and to take soundings with Congressional leaders about the possibility of originating, supporting and passing legislation for a private/public mechanism to fund RL, in accordance with general guidelines worked out in agreement with you.

II. Adding to and strengthening the membership of RLC's Board of Trustees and giving them an opportunity to work actively in our behalf.

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III. Creating among the key officers in the Moscow Embassy a greater awareness and acceptance of RL than has existed in the past by:

- A. A systematic and effective program of briefing all political, economic and cultural officers assigned to the Embassy before their departure
- B. A better flow of information about RL activities to the Ambassador and his staff in Moscow. (As a corollary; occasional mention of RL at the Ambassador's briefings for U.S. correspondents)
- C. Preparation of a manual on listening for RL in the target area.

IV. Setting up in the Moscow Embassy a full time capability for monitoring RL broadcasts in the capital as well as in other areas of our target.

On such questions as possible Congressional support for some type of public/private mechanism, we of course want to work in closest possible cooperation with Free Europe. It occurs to me that we might plan for a joint discussion while Bill Durkee is in this country. I am told he plans to be here beginning March 8 for a few days.