April 4, 1952 Senate Staff Member Criticizes Radio Free Europe

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Summary:

Richard Arens, counsel for the Senate's Internal Security Subcommittee, accuses Radio Free Europe of harboring Marxists and broadcasting left-wing and socialist propaganda.

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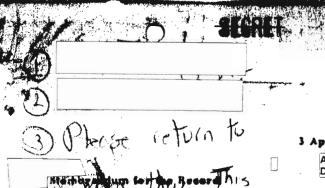
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1. On 35 March Mr. Richard Arens, Councel for the Immigration Subcommittee and Stall Director of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the denate Judiary Committee (all three headed by Scantor McKarren), together with his moistant, Mr. Frank Schroeder, made available to me their views regarding the National Committee for Free a urope, Their initial comments were extremely hostile to NCFs, indicating that there were many Marnists in the group, and that they were pulling out left wing and socialist propagands. Mr. Arens stated that there were several witnesses prepared to testify nefore the Committee that the entire operation is "rotten" and that it is financing NCFE is common goesip among many alien groups in New York.

- 2. At this meeting Mr. Arens expressed considerable feeling regarding the number of private bills being introduced for NCF; employees. He pointed out that most of these foreigners entered this country on temperary visus and that many were then converted to permanent residents by private bills. He stated that if it was not a Government organization timeseed by CIA or State, there seemed to be no reason to give these aliens preferential treatment, and that they should rely on normal quotes for admission. I pointed out to him that CIA was not sponsoring these bills and that he might address any questions he had on that subject to Admiral Miller, the responsible head of NCFA. Furthermore, I suggested that, in view of the nature of the work of NCFE and its components -- Crusade for Freedom and Radio Free Europe, rather than air his charges, he should discuss the whole matter with Admiral Miller, whom he would find extremely sympathetic. I offered my services to bring him and the Admiral together as I had known the Admiral for several years.
- 3. I finally secured an admission from Mr. Arens that basically the programs of NCFE and its components were extremely valuable, were making a fine contribution to the cold war, and should probably be continued, but that there were certain reservations which they had regarding the operation.

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- 4. I subsequently discussed this meeting with Mr. Dulles and admiral Miller and regammended that I be permitted to arrange a meeting between the Committee staff and Admiral Miller, and this was approved.
- 5. On 2 April Admiral Miller met with Mesers. Arens and Schroeder and discussed the problems outlined above. It can be stated that the entire meeting was held in an atmosphere of extrema cordinity and cooperation.
- 6. Mr. Arens commenced with a brief statement of certain of his views, as indicated above, and Admiral Miller outlined some of the background of NCFE. Mr. Arens then asked how it was financed, and he was informed that it was financed in part by public subscription, in part by foundations, and that certain covert aspects were covered occasionally by Government funds. (When Mr. Arens left the meeting I stressed to him the fact that he should not mention any Government aspects of NCFE, and he said he would not, but that we should not "kid" ourselves that many people did not realize that CIA particularly had a financial interest in the operation).
- 7. The eccond point is which interest was expressed was the manner of clearing Committee employees. Admiral Miller explained that the Committee's employees were checked both in the United States and abroad through the facilities of the FBI, CIA, BBC, CIC, and every other available means. Mr. Arens pointed out that it was always possible for a sleeper to slip into an organization, but was assured that if any such case developed the employee would be ousted immediately.
- 8. The next point raised was a report which the Senate Committee had that several former State Department employees who had left the Department under a loyalty or security cloud had secured employment with NCFE. Admiral Miller premised a complete study of this point.

9.	Considerable discussion then took place regarding	
	who heads the National Council for a	Mr.
ochroede	r read extracts from several reports in his possession	con-
cerning	and his unreliability. It was pointed out that	
	boasted that through a State Department connection be	

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could control the visas received by that he controlled certain people on the deak in and in RFE. The Committee also had testimeny that hept three sets of books -- one for the Council, one for NCFE, and one to which only he and his oderstary had access. It was alleged that he also threw around the name of CIA rather loosely.

10. Mr. Areas raised the case of whose entry into the United States was allegedly spensored by NCFE.

It was pointed out that wife was alleged to be a Communist agent and that himself had an unsavery reputation.

11. Mr. Schroeder Indicated that he wished to introduce Admiral Miller to certain people in New York who were knowledgeable on NCFE problems, and Admiral Miller urged that there be further talks between them.

> Walter L. Pfortheimer Legislative Counsel

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