

July 24, 1953

Radio Liberty Broadcasting Reviewed

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Summary:

State Department, CIA, and American Committee for Liberation (AMCOMLIB) representatives review Radio Liberty issues. CIA notes RL's "steady progress" without participation of the émigré Political Center.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Implementation of State Department Policy for []

1. On 5 June 1953, at the meeting between representatives of the Department of State, AMCOMLIB and CIA, the principles governing [] were reviewed. The basic policy of attempting to unite the Soviet emigration on a broad basis was reaffirmed.

2. At the same time, the SR representative made a number of recommendations for a change in the Committee's implementation of this basic policy. The principal suggestions were (a) substantially reduce political subsidies, (b) establish a four- or five-man working staff for the Center, preferably in Paris, (c) separate the operation of Radio Liberation from the Center both geographically and jurisdictionally. The Chairman of AMCOMLIB opposed these suggestions (with the possible exception of moving the Center to Paris), and gave assurance that the steps were unnecessary or undesirable. He expressed his personal conviction that the efforts of the Committee along existing lines would be successful, although he admitted the possibility of failure. On the basis of this assurance, CIA granted a three months' budget at the increased rate requested by Admiral Stevens.

3. Since the basic affirmation of policy was made, the following major developments have occurred:

a. The Coordinating Center split into a Russian and a nationality faction. The tensions between these two factions were sharpened by the existence of a third, the "Paris bloc" of nationality groups.

b. On 6 June, representatives of the above three factions met. By mid-June, their negotiations were stalemated; each faction proposed changes in the Coordinating Center statutes unacceptable to the other factions. Meanwhile, the Russian faction held several private sessions during which it admitted seven new groups into its rump "Center."

c. To break the impasse, AMCOMLIB dispatched its two top political advisors to Munich. They arrived on 26 June. By early July, their efforts had failed.

d. On 9 July, Admiral Stevens instructed his two emissaries to withdraw to Paris, but to return to Munich if developments warranted. This maneuver did not alter the situation. One emissary returned to New York.

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*Mr. Wilmer said he
didn't believe a
discussion is now
necessary*

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e. On 16 July, Admiral Stevens, after consultation with Francis B. Stevens of the State Department, informed all members of the original Coordinating Center that "all subsidies for the Center, its officials and publications of member organizations will cease after the next monthly payment." Admiral Stevens let the Center know, informally, that his remaining emissary in Paris would return to Munich "if the divided elements show disposition on their own initiative to resume negotiations."

f. AMCOMLIB is now considering creating an "action commission," consisting of several key personalities from both the Russian and nationality factions. As a first step toward this commission, the [redacted] are to meet in Paris, with Admiral Stevens' emissary mediating. The commission is to provide provisional sponsorship for Radio Liberation, continue efforts to establish a Center, and plan practical anti-Communist work.

4. Admiral Stevens estimates that there is a fifty-fifty chance of resolving the Russian-nationalities impasse within the next three months.

5. SR Division notes that all three of its suggestions, mentioned above, have in effect been imposed by the course of events: (a) the elimination of subsidies has been ordered, (b) the "action commission" in Paris is proceeding along the lines of the proposed "working staff" of the Center, (c) Radio Liberation has made steady progress without active participation by the Center. SR recognized that the Committee regards this as a temporary situation imposed upon it by the crisis within the emigration, but still remains of the opinion that its recommendations were sound as originally presented.

6. Chief, SR Division, has conferred [redacted] with most of the American Committee's key representatives, and wished to commend them for the valiant efforts they have made to carry out their difficult mission.

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