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December 3, 1956

Rethinking the Role of Free Europe Committee and Radio Free Europe

Citation:

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Summary:

CIA/International Operations Division routing slips raise questions about an attached Free Europe Committee (FEC) draft dated November 12 on the FEC's role in the wake of the Hungarian Revolution and note that the FEC [in New York] did not forward to Radio Free Europe Munich certain CIA guidances on broadcast policy.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Blavatnik Family Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

- Original Scan

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	[redacted]		
2			
3	Meyer		
4			
5			
6			

	ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT		FILE		RETURN
	CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE

Remarks:

See Cord's note

No, we do not. In fact, we have been informed that Gen. Crittenberger did not authorize transmittal of our agreed guidance to Munich. We do have on file the daily Nathan guidance to Munich on International Commentary

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FROM: NAME, ADDRES [redacted]

DATE 12/3

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FORM NO. 237 1 APR 55 Replaces Form 30-4 which may be used. ☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP DATE

TO: C/TO [redacted]

ROOM NO. | BUILDING

REMARKS:

You've seen this strong language! [redacted]

Also do we have a file in chronological order all guidance from HQ. to Munich during this period.

FROM:

ROOM NO. | BUILDING | EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241 1 FEB 55 REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED. (47)

142

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DATE: NOV [illegible]

Draft 12 November 1956

Revised Policies and Plans for FEC Operations

Recent developments require a new look at the activities of the Free Europe Committee and indicate the need for some major revisions and some additional action. Some of these are set forth below:

1. The U.S. objective with respect to Central Europe ought to be clearly defined. If, as there seem to be some indications, it is U.S. policy to work for a group of neutral buffer states from the Baltic to the Black Sea, this ought to be clearly spelled out and made known to those who are responsible for conducting psychological and political action programs targeted at Central and Eastern Europe.

2. The degree to which the West by radio broadcasts, leaflet operations and otherwise, encourages the captive peoples to resist or change the present regimes while at the same time the West is not willing or able to assist them in a situation like that in Hungary, presents serious questions which ought to be realistically thought through.

3. The present programs of Radio Free Europe and the Free Europe Press which are principally based on a concept of encouraging the people to make demands on the regimes for changes which will benefit the people and weaken the controls of communist regimes over them, should be carefully examined. For example, the degree to which we are encouraging the Polish people to make further demands on the Gomulka regime must be very carefully defined so that we will not be confronted with a situation in Poland like that which is put down in a bloodbath in Hungary.

4. The desirability of continuing balloon operations into Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia should be very carefully examined.

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5. A formula for utilizing recent Hungarian escapees must be worked out. This will present problems with respect to the present Hungarian National Council.

6. There is a serious problem of morale within the new Hungarian escapees who believe that the West let them down. A real effort should be made to deal with this problem.

7. The Free Europe Committee's role with respect to the several thousand new Hungarian escapees should be defined.