

## **August 9, 1957**

### **Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy Discussion**

#### **Citation:**

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#### **Summary:**

An International Organizations Division (IOD) officer recounts differences among the Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy (CRBP) members about Radio Free Europe (RFE) country policy papers and discerns considerable overlap between RFE and the Voice of America (VOA).

#### **Credits:**

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#### **Original Language:**

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#### **Contents:**

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9 August 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, International Organizations Division

SUBJECT: Radio Broadcasting Policy Committee  
RFE and VOA Papers on the Satellites

1. We had a meeting in [redacted] office on August 9 with USIA and State representatives to go over, in a preliminary way, the VOA Hungarian and Czech papers, and to try to reach an agreement on the RFE Hungarian paper, about which Revy of USIA has raised some questions. These we hope will all be resolved at a subsequent meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 13. Although we did not have time to read the VOA papers because they did not arrive until an hour or two before the meeting, I believe that there is a basic policy question here which may not have been fully considered by the Radio Committee when the Bulgarian papers were acted on.

2. The main point that I would like to raise for your consideration is this - these papers permit both RFE and VOA to operate in practically identical fields. As we pointed out before, the area of overlap is about 90% with perhaps about 5% of difference between the two radios. I believe a logical interpretation of this might be that there is no reason for both to continue to operate. This may be an opportunity for the Bureau of the Budget to raise a serious question as to why RFE should continue to operate, a question which they have asked several times before.

3. [redacted]

[redacted] It is pointed out, however, that the difference is only one of degree because these policy papers authorize VOA considerable latitude in this regard.

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