

July 14, 1961

Kennedy Administration Coordinates International Broadcasting

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<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/115045>

Summary:

NSAM 63 directs the State Department to provide foreign policy guidance to all broadcasters, including Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, and authorizes the USIA Director to preempt time on RFE and RL in a national emergency

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Washington

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July 24, 1961

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 63

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
Director, U. S. Information Agency
Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Policy Guidance and Preemption of U. S. Government-
Controlled Broadcasting

After consultation with the heads of departments and agencies concerned, the President has approved the following:

1. The Department of State shall provide foreign policy guidance to all international radio broadcasting and television stations controlled by U. S. Government agencies. This includes stations of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service and the Voice of the United Nations Command in Korea, operated by the Department of Defense, and those stations [redacted] influenced or financed by the Central Intelligence Agency.
2. This guidance shall be relayed through the U. S. Information Agency, which will provide supplemental information policy guidance as required. The Director, U. S. Information Agency shall establish appropriate procedures for conveying guidance.
3. The Director, U. S. Information Agency is authorized to preempt time on any of these radio and television stations for special programs when he deems it to be in the national interest. The Director, U. S. Information Agency shall establish appropriate procedures for arranging for such special programs.
4. Every effort shall be made to avoid public awareness of the relationship between the various ostensibly non-governmental broadcasting stations and the U. S. Government.

/s/

McGeorge Bundy

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Secretary of the Army
Secretary of the Navy
Secretary of the Air Force
Special Counsel to the President
Military Representative to the President
Military Aide to the President

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