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Press Item for the DCI

Date: 30 Mar
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RADIO FREE EUROPE

WASHINGTON (AP)-PRESIDENT NIXON TODAY SIGNED A BILL AUTHORIZING CONTINUED FEDERAL FINANCING FOR RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY UNTIL JUNE 30.

THE TWO STATIONS BEGAN BEAMING BROADCASTS BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN IN EASTERN EUROPE IN THE EARLY 1950S WITH THE CLANDESTINE SUPPORT OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

THE PRESIDENT LAST YEAR ORDERED A HALT TO CIA FUNDING OF THE STATIONS, BOTH LOCATED IN MUNICH, GERMANY, AND PROPOSED PROVIDING MONEY THROUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR TWO MORE YEARS.

AUTHORIZATION OF $36 MILLION FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR WAS HELD UP IN SENATE-HOUSE DISAGREEMENT OVER A ONE OR TWO YEAR EXTENSION, WITH CHAIRMAN J.W. FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CALLING FOR AN END TO THE BROADCASTS AS IRRITANTS TO EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

IN AGREEING ON FUNDS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, SENATE AND HOUSE NFEREES PROMISED TO CONSIDER A FURTHER EXTENSION, PERHAPS WITH SHARED PARTICIPATION BY OTHER NATIONS, IF THE ADMINISTRATION MAKES A NEW REQUEST.

CZ243PES 3/30

Comment: Thuermer, Maury and CSDO have copies.

[illegible] initial and tentative reaction of the Office

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