



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 15, 1961

BY LIAISON

FBI REVIEW COMPLETED 8/19/2003

Honorable John A. McCone
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Administration Building
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. McCone:

Material contained in the enclosed memorandum was supplied by sources who have furnished reliable information in the past. Information in this memorandum relates to the proposal for a socialist broadcasting system in Europe to reach English-speaking peoples.

Because of the sensitive nature of our sources, we have classified this communication and its enclosure "Top Secret." This information is being furnished to other appropriate officials of the Government.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

December 15, 1961

PROPOSAL FOR A SOCIALIST BROADCASTING SYSTEM
IN EUROPE TO REACH ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES

In late September or early October, 1961, a meeting was held in East Berlin, German Democratic Republic, which was attended by Americans in Europe active in radio propaganda work who had either voluntarily left or fled from the United States for various reasons. As a result of this meeting of Americans, a proposal was drawn up to establish a socialist broadcasting system in Europe which would direct its activities at English-speaking peoples.

This proposal contained the following information:

An estimated half million Americans reside in Europe. They include the military and their dependents, embassy and consular officials and their families, businessmen, students and tourists. These half million or more Americans represent a highly strategic radio audience. Deprived of television, except in England, they spend more time at the radio than they would at home in the United States. Many of them have radios in their automobiles or carry portable transistor sets. The only American-oriented station they can listen to is Armed Forces Network (AFN). In English, they can also hear Luxemburg, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Voice of America (VOA). The purpose of this proposal was to establish a radio station broadcasting the socialist point of view in English to Western Europe in direct competition with AFN, BBC, VOA and Luxemburg.

Politically, it was pointed out, this station would be a major contribution to the propaganda struggle for a German peace treaty, peaceful competition and coexistence. Essentially, this station would serve as a psychological warfare arm of the Warsaw Pact.

This station would be staffed by highly qualified creative individuals working in the English language. Initially, these would be drawn from the existing overseas broadcasting organizations of the various socialist countries in Europe. Once the station was established, it could be expanded with skilled individuals now living in Western Europe or even the United States and Canada.

T O P S E C R E T

The proposed radio station would be on the air from early morning until after midnight in order to meet and compete with AFN, BBC, VOA and Luxemburg. Its programs would include a broad range of political, general and recreational material to present the socialist message as a whole. Great attention would be given to news, presenting brief summaries every hour and fuller details seldom heard over Western stations. Socialist achievements in science, technology, art and other fields would be covered. United Nations activity, including the speeches of socialist and neutralist nations, would be more fully reported than in the West. Sports as a means of peaceful competition would get full coverage. Music would constitute the bulk of program time.

It was proposed that one or more existing "medium-wave transmitters" in East Germany and/or possibly Czechoslovakia would have to be made available full time to launch the proposed station. Since the purpose of the station is to influence American and English listeners "in a positive political way," it was proposed that it commence operating as quickly as possible so that the station could begin operations on May Day, 1962-- "an appropriate date."

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T O P S E C R E T



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 18, 1961

BY LIAISON

Honorable John A. McCone
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Administration Building
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. McCone:

Material contained in the enclosed memorandum was supplied by sources who have furnished reliable information in the past. Information in this memorandum relates to Mikhail Suslov, member of the Presidium, Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Because of the sensitive nature of our sources, we have classified this communication and its enclosure "Top Secret." This information is being furnished to other appropriate officials of the Government.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Edgar Hoover", is written below the typed name.

Enclosure



T O P S E C R E T
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

*In Reply, Please Refer to
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December 18, 1961

**MIKHAIL SUSLOV, MEMBER OF THE PRESIDIUM,
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION**

In late October, 1961, during the course of the 22nd Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), Itsak Mintz, a Soviet historian and academician who is a person held in high esteem by important members of the leadership in the CPSU, made certain remarks, the essence of which is as follows:

"The wings of Mikhail Suslov have been clipped. Nikita S. Khrushchev, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, has not forgotten that when the anti-Party - pro-Stalin group, of which Vyacheslav M. Molotov was a member, attempted to take over the leadership of the CPSU in 1957, Suslov, although not siding with this anti-Party group, failed to support Khrushchev and, instead, packed his bags and took off for an extended vacation in the Crimea. Then, too, Khrushchev has not forgotten that during the course of the meeting of the 81 Communist and Workers' Parties held in Moscow, Russia, during November, 1960, the Chinese had taken up and utilized several quotations from the writings of Suslov in an attempt to bolster their, the Communist Party of China's (CPC), position in the factional dispute with the CPSU. Although Suslov at the 81-Party meeting attempted to argue away the interpretation given to these quotations by the Chinese, Khrushchev was not satisfied that the damage had been undone.

"Khrushchev does not consider Suslov to be either pro-Stalinist or anti-Party. Although Suslov had been re-elected to the Presidium, he reportedly will be gradually eased into a position of lesser importance, and it is said that he might be placed in charge of the education of Soviet scientists.

"At the 22nd Congress of the CPSU, Khrushchev did not raise the Suslov matter in order to avoid the creation of additional problems and set up additional issues which might be utilized by the CPC."

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