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ANALYSIS
OF
SOVIET-CONTROLLED GERMAN BROADCASTS

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ANALYSIS OF SOVIET-CONTROLLED GERMAN BROADCASTS

1. Enclosed, as a supplement to ORE 2, is an analysis of Soviet-controlled German broadcasts, a subject not covered in that paper. The salient points of the Enclosure are summarized below.

2. Broadcasts from Soviet-controlled German stations are devoted primarily to "domestic" affairs of a political and economic character. They seek to demonstrate the superiority of Soviet administration and the advantages of life in the Soviet zone as compared with the British and American, with particular reference to food supply, reconstruction, industrial rehabilitation, and denazification. They actively support the Communist Party in reporting its activities in the British and U. S. zones as well as in the Soviet zone.

3. Coverage of "foreign affairs" is limited almost entirely to C.F.M. consideration of the German problem. Political activities in other countries are rarely reported, except to point up the perfidious machinations of the British.

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BROADCAST MATERIAL ON SOVIET CONTROLLED GERMAN TRANSMITTERS

The material carried on the network of German radios within the Soviet zone of occupation (including the Berlin transmitter) follows the general propaganda line of Radio Moscow as described in the FBIS analysis of Soviet foreign propaganda broadcasts. In addition, there is considerable material that is designed exclusively for the population in the Soviet occupation zone.

This material for Germans in the Soviet zone is concerned predominately with "domestic" affairs. On the political front, are included lengthy reports and commentaries on the activities of German political parties, trade union organizations, speeches by prominent figures, wordy polemics on the policies of German political parties in the Western zones of occupation, local election results, analysis of party platforms, and long quotations from press reviews on the issues of land reform, nationalization, denazification, the need for political activities of the individual German, etc.

On the economic front, in the category of "domestic" affairs, are included rationing news, the need to wipe out black market activities, land reform measures, prospects for a good harvest, nationalization measures, talks by trade union leaders, works council elections, future economic prospects for Germany, and details of Soviet agricultural and reconstruction aid. Reportage of cultural activities gets comparatively small play, although frequent mention is made of the reopening of schools and the purge of Nazi professors and teachers.

The general conclusion to be drawn from the examination of "domestic" broadcasts is that the Soviets slant material for the purpose of demonstrating the advantage of a communist system as opposed to a capitalist system. In the field of inter-zonal affairs, considerable attention is given to comparisons of administration between the Soviet zone and the British, on the one hand, and the Soviet and the United States zones, on the other. The advantages of Soviet control as against that of the "Western Powers" are constantly illustrated. For example, the rationing difficulties and the shortage of food in the Western zones are sharply contrasted with reported increases in the Soviet zone. The failure of the British and the Americans to eradicate the Hitlerites in their zones is emphasized. Contrasts in the progress of reconstruction and industrial activity are also described. The need for inter-zonal economic unity is constantly mentioned and the relay of reports from the British zone of occupation help to remind Germans in the Soviet zone of their advantageous position.

The radio makes an active attempt to buttress the position of the German Communist Party. Speakers representing the Communist Party are given more than a proportionate share of time on the radio, and the party's activities are accorded full reportage. From the British and American zones also, there are detailed accounts of Communist Party activity, which clearly favor this

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party as against the others. Similarly, in reporting the decisions of the Berlin Control Council, and in rendering election results in the Western zones, the communist and socialist unity parties are presented in a favorable light.

From the point of view of time allotted, "foreign" affairs take second place in material carried by USSR-controlled German radios. There is extensive reportage of the conferences of the Big Four foreign ministers, especially as regards the Potsdam decisions and "the problem of Germany." While the "Press Review" reports that the papers carried a "text" of the speeches of participants in the Big Four Conference, the radio confines itself to lengthy quotations from the speeches of Soviet spokesmen.

Mention of political activity in other European countries, except to point up the perfidious machinations of the British, is extremely rare. The German people hear little mention of happenings in the United States from the USSR-controlled radio.

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