

Air

SECRET

MOB/A-4104

8 June 1949

ATTN : Chief. Educator
 []
 Chief of Station, Karlsruhe
 []
 Project
 CAMLET East Zone Edition

1. Your contents' analysis dated 13 April was passed to CAMLET through CAMISE. In view of CAMLET's excessive sensitiveness in matters impinging upon his journalistic independence, CAMISE has taken it upon herself to present your views as her own. In this manner she can elicit CAMLET's opinions on contentious issues without giving an indication that strictures emanated from an American source.

2. The following observations are keyed to your memorandum of 13 April 1949:

Re para 6 a -- It is correct that more mention should have been made of new facts bearing on Soviet trial techniques. We shall endeavor to publish reports of this type in the most factual manner.

Re para 6 b -- It was impossible to make any propaganda for a new Reichsbanner because the Western Allies would never allow the SPD to form a paramilitary organization. It would be silly to try something in the Eastern Zone which is not even permitted in the Western Zones. But it was exactly this article which made the greatest impression on the readers (we received a great number of anonymous letters concerning it). They were happy just to be reminded of old glories and to hear that the old comrades are still there. The value of this article may be called "purely sentiment" but it is not to be underestimated.

Re paras 7 and 8 -- From what we heard from our men in the Soviet Zone, we are of a different opinion. There are two reasons why we stress "atrocities" stories

Distribution:

- 2 - []
- 1 - COS
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Camlet

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2007

1) The influence of the daily propaganda spread by Soviet controlled newspapers and radio stations on how wonderful things are and especially are going to be in the Soviet Zone and in the Soviet orbit, must be countered. Some people -- and especially the young -- are inclined to believe at least part of it. Perhaps they think that only their own town is behind and has the wrong men as leaders. They have to be told that it is the same bad thing everywhere in the East and they have to see it printed.

2) The readers know, of course, that our paper is illegal and is coming from Berlin. They are relieved to see that we in Berlin and in the West are informed on Russian and Communist terror and denounce it again and again and don't forget their misery. If we would neglect these stories they would think us either not well informed or not caring too much about how terrible their life is.

It is rather difficult to report instances of active resistance. If the resistance people are still at large they might be endangered and if they are caught their example is not too encouraging.

Re para 9 -- We are publishing the BBC London program now in each issue so that our readers hear the news on the radio.