

(Only for papers purchasing Lewis column. Others must not use.)  
(Caution: Advance Lewis column for release Wednesday, November 27,  
A.M. and P.M. papers. Must not be published before that date.)

Washington Report

By Fulton Lewis, Jr.

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Washington, Nov. 26--The public, which puts up the money, is given to believe that Radio FREE Europe and its affiliated operations perform the mission of disseminating propaganda of hope and freedom behind the Iron Curtain.

This is a worthy objective, as objectives go, but performances are not always as advertised.

Young Mr. Samuel S. Walker, Jr., is in charge of that branch of the FREE Europe operations which sent propaganda balloons to Czechoslovakia, Hungary and other satellite countries until the operation was terminated on orders from Washington.

He now has set up several new ventures without balloons. Among them is what he calls the "Asian Contacts Program."

This is being carried on in various Far Eastern and Middle Eastern nations and from Mr. Walker's explanation to me, it consists chiefly of displaying a moving picture film, called "Hungary Aflame." The picture is a "documentary" of the tragedies of Budapest in the blood baths of October, 1956.

The operating personnel is interesting. One Paul Tigrid, a Czechoslovakian who somehow has not taken the trouble to become naturalized, was dispatched to Japan and Hong Kong, and exhibited "Hungary Aflame" at a leading men's club in Tokyo, which the FREE Europe upside considers a major coup.

SHEET TWO Lewis for Wednesday 11/27. x x x major coup.

As of the last time I checked, he still is on the road, with salary and expense account.

Two others, REYMAN and Gabor, WERE to have gone to India but WERE unable to get visas to enter the country. They WERE sent elsewhere, instead. REYMAN has just become an American citizen, Gabor is not.

A third, NENOFF, also not a citizen, is a former member of the secret police in Bulgaria. Kovacs, a Hunharian, also went to Japan. There is one American, William Pfaff, the subject of considerable controversy.

Last May, in a gesture to cut down staff because the balloon operation had been abandoned, the 31-year-old Walker fired 30 low-salaried REFUGEE employees, and hired Pfaff at \$9,600 a year as an "editorial consultant." To this salary, of course, is added his full travel expenses, while he is touring the Eastern world.

In addition to the countries named, the Asian Contacts Program covers Burma, Thailand, Malaya, Pakistan, Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan. And other countries too, I understand, but I have no specific knowledge of these.

How all this fits into a pattern of hope and freedom propaganda to enslaved millions behind the Iron Curtain in Europe is difficult for me to understand. This, actually, is propagandizing the people of the FREE World, outside the Iron Curtain, and I question the benefits to be derived.

It seems to be a considerable departure from the big-name-studded "Crusade For Freedom," which collects the "Truth Dollars" which go to support the FREE Europe operations.

(more)

**SHEET THREE Lewis for Wednesday 11/27 x x x operations.**

**Mr. Walker's explanation is as follows:**

**"WE FEEL that there are two basic ways of helping the captive people of Eastern Europe.**

**"One is by keeping the story of Soviet oppression in this area before the eyes of world public opinion. Anything that can be done to make the Soviet policy of oppression more unpopular throughout the FREE World and more expensive to sustain might eventually help cause the Kremlin to adopt a less oppressive policy.**

**"Further, the Contacts Program constitutes a good potential source of news items, for use in broadcasting to the Eastern European audiences who might find encouragement in the fact that the free peoples of the world have not forgotten them."**

**All of this already is being done by the U.S. Information Agency over the world at a cost of \$90,000,000 a year and more.**

**(End) 11/24/57**

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