

TAB C

Diplomatic Actions
Taken with respect to
VOA Jamming

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DIPLOMATIC ACTIONS TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO

VOA JAMMING

On three occasions since April 1948 direct diplomatic representations have been made to the Soviet authorities with regard to interference to American H.F. broadcasting stations. Such representations have elicited a variety of reactions such as denial of Soviet use of the frequencies involved, Soviet priority or no response.

The Secretary General of the ITU circulated to all members of the Union a telegram from the United States which stated the situation with respect to the intolerable interference to the VOA being created by Soviet jamming program, and, advising that steps would be taken by the U.S. to protect its broadcasting transmissions, but with every effort being taken to avoid inconvenience to other members of the Union.

The question of Soviet jamming was also raised at the "Conference on Freedom of Information" (Uruguay 1950) and the matter was referred to the ECOSOC which resulted in resolution 306 which was in turn transmitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations and adopted by that body as resolution 406(V) at its 325th plenary meeting 14 December 1950. The United States delegation to the U.N. took occasion to note that the United States supported the ECOSOC resolution. However neither this or any other of the objections has had any effect.

During the High Frequency Broadcasting Conference at Mexico City (1949) the Chairman of the U.S. delegation denounced the U.S.S.R. for its jamming activities. This denunciation stopped the Conference for several

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hours while the delegates from the U.S.S.R. made points of order against the denunciation. The presentation of the U.S. position was only accomplished by the tactical maneuver of proving the relevance of the U.S. statements by reading them in open session to the Chairman of the Conference.

SUMMATION

In view of the continuance of Soviet jamming without regard to these actions of the United States, the ITU or the U.N., certain conclusions may be drawn. When it is considered that U.S.S.R. jamming activities have been confined almost entirely to programming of a propaganda nature, and that the I.T.U. Convention and other pertinent treaties provides the legal justification for member nations to protect themselves from telecommunications which jeopardize their national security, it would seem obvious then that the U.S.S.R. must consider its legal position as being sound in taking action against what the Soviets must recognize as a serious threat to their national security. Insofar as their legal position rests entirely on comity among nations this may also mean that they are prepared in some degree to protect themselves from retaliation or that by confining their jamming to the "damaging activities" of the political broadcasts they thereby run the least risk of inviting retaliatory actions.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the political, technical and legal factors entering into the present and historical actions of the U.S.S.R. in its jamming operations, it would seem imperative that the U.S. must recognize within

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its own council (1) the futility of protesting against Soviet jamming for any other purpose than providing a "cover" for U.S. political warfare activities, (2) that the Soviet fully recognizes the extreme vulnerability of dictatorships to political warfare and the diversion of resources in defense of the Soviet regime may be justified on that basis alone without regard to the possibility of collateral advantage accruing to its military capabilities.

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