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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Soviet and Satellite Radio Reactions to
Announcement of Clay's Anti-Totalitarian
Information Program

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Soviet and satellite radio reaction to Clay's announcement of an anti-totalitarian
information policy has followed four main lines:

- (1) Identification of the new policy with fascism, and consequently with danger
not only to the Communist Party but also to all other "progressive organizations."
- (2) Playing up alleged violations of civil rights by Clay, among which is the claim
that Elliott Roosevelt's book has been "banned."
- (3) Describing the step as an effort to make the dismemberment of Germany "more
palatable."
- (4) Miscellaneous denunciation of American-zone policy--the failure to carry out
land reform, entrusting industry to "German war criminals," and the like.

The amount of comment was considerable at first, but emanated from Moscow and the
Soviet zone in Germany (with no monitored comments by other satellite radice), and the
volume declined after 3 November.

a) "Slogans of Goebbels' Times": The comparison of Clay's campaign with that of
Goebbels is said to have two morals: that there is a danger to all "progressive" elements;
and that there is a danger to world peace. Under Goebbels "one democratic right after
another was destroyed, and the Communist, Social Democratic, trade union, cooperative,
and youth organizations were wiped out, and all conservative, liberal, and other bourgeois
parties and associations were dissolved." And in the end there was war. "The ruins and
the empty Sunday dinner tables provided the answer." "Germany is at stake--our

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fatherland which we do not wish to see again in fascist hands. We therefore say calmly to those who once more wish to subject our people to anti-communist agitation resulting in another catastrophe: 'Do what you feel compelled to do, but do not rejoice too early!'" (quotation from NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, broadcast by the USSR-controlled Berlin radio, 5 November 1947)

b. Clay "Bans" Elliott Roosevelt, But Not Pornography: Instead of proclaiming the allegedly "democratic" character of Communism and defending it in terms of its claimed non-totalitarian attributes, the Soviet radio attempts to blacken American policy by reports of American actions which Moscow interprets as repressive and anti-democratic. Attention is called to the "banning" of the Cultural League in the U.S. sector of Berlin "only one day after Gen. Clay made his statement." Clay is identified with the loyalty tests in Washington. "I do not intend to keep any of the personnel that does not agree with the United States MG opinions and that is against the views on which military government is based," declared Gen. Clay. It is obvious that Gen. Clay has just returned from the United States, where the so-called 'loyalty test' of all civil servants is being carried out in all haste." There is an ironic reference to Clay's interest in art: "By the way, Gen. Clay has shown himself as a patron of the sciences, literature, and art. He permits, for instance, in the zone entrusted to him, the circulation of U.S. pornographic literature, but Elliott Roosevelt's book and others are banned."* (Moscow, in German, 3 November)

There is also a reference to Franklin D. Roosevelt, as if to invoke his name in opposition to all forms of "fascism" including that attributed to Gen. Clay: "From the point of view of strengthening the democratic forces in Germany and establishing a peaceful and democratic Germany, which was the aim of Roosevelt's policy, the policy which is being followed today in the U.S. zone is completely incomprehensible." (commentary by Heinz Schmidt, Director of the USSR-controlled Berlin Radio, 2 November 1947)

(The above quotation illustrates a general characteristic of Soviet propaganda.)

*Moscow does not give any background for the interpretation that Elliott Roosevelt's book has been "banned." It should be noted, however, that similar interpretations have previously been made when a particular book was not included on the accession list of the American information service or when American aid was not given to having it translated.

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which is relevant to the Soviet-coveted role of representing "democracy." It is not argued that the Soviet Union is democratic. No reference whatever is made to the question of the extent of civil rights in the USSR or its satellites. Attention is simply concentrated on the real or alleged undemocratic practices of the enemy, and words are manipulated in such a way as to suggest that the identification of the Soviet Union with democracy is completely self-evident. "From the point of view of strengthening the democratic forces of Germany... the policy which is being followed (by the U.S.) is completely incomprehensible."

c) A West-German State Made "Palatable" by the "Anti-Bolshevist Bogey": Clay's campaign is tied up with the currently predominant theme of German unity, and with the coming London Conference, by describing it as a way of justifying the division of Germany which is elsewhere said to be the probable outcome of the conference. There are references to the "west-German state, which one tries to make palatable to us by using the anti-Communist bogey." There is also a tie-up with the unity theme by picturing the anti-Communist campaign as intensifying the split between East and West: "Germans have the most immediate cause for anxiety, since Germany is in the center of the magnetic field where--to all appearances--tension is growing. The line between East and West, which is becoming ever more clearly visible, will also run straight through Germany." "The spreading of 'American' ideas and the campaign against 'un-American' ideas in Germany may be deliberate steps on the road to the division of Germany." (Berlin, USSR-controlled, 31 October 1947)

d) Clay vs. Potsdam, Land Reform, Social Insurance, etc.: The announcement of Clay's program is made the occasion for a general review of the evils of American administration in general and Clay's record in particular: "In the economic sphere General Clay distinguished himself in Germany in a very strange manner. As military governor of the U.S. occupation zone, he was responsible for fulfilling the Potsdam decisions. But the peasants have not received any land, and land remained with the landowners. The enterprises in the zone entrusted to him are in the hands of German war criminals, and many of the undertakings have been transferred to U.S. monopolists. In the sphere of social policy, General Clay's military government has left no noticeable imprint. General Clay has not introduced equal pay for equal work for women and juveniles. Social insurance is only a dream in the U.S. zone. ... Disguised under the slogan 'fight

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against Communism, he will eradicate the weak shoots of democracy which have developed
in the U.S. occupation zone in spite of all obstacles." (Moscow, in German, 3
November 1947)

The United States itself is also attacked on miscellaneous grounds. "Maybe
General Clay will present to the Germans the achievements of U.S. democracy at home.
Maybe he will tell them about lynching and the U.S. precedence over Germany in the
matter of racial fanaticism...." (Moscow, in Polish, 11 November 1947)

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