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(No. 1, 4-5 January 1950)

INTRODUCTION: To date, there has been relatively little monitored foreign radio comment on the President's State of the Union message. The Soviet radio has not yet been heard from on the subject, although on Wednesday it devoted one broadcast to the problem of the budget and the forthcoming message. The Prague radio, the only East European Satellite to have commented so far, charges the President with asking for a continuation of America's aggressive policy. A Soviet-controlled Austrian broadcast taunts Truman with having "admitted that the strenuously denied economic reverse in the U.S. actually did occur during the past year." The EBC reports that the British press approves many of the President's points. A Madrid radio commentator finds that in the field of foreign policy the President's message was "not of great interest" and said "really very little."

MOSCOW'S PRE-MESSAGE COMMENT: Broadcasting a "note on international affairs from NEW TIMES," Moscow on Wednesday tells North American listeners that "the U.S. Government, which promised to shower prosperity and happiness on all its satellites and the colonial countries thrown in, is, it appears, itself unable to make ends meet." Contending that the budget was one of the big problems facing the White House in preparation of the President's message to Congress, the Soviet radio propagandizes that "revenues are insufficient to cover the colossal expenditures on armaments and war preparations, on the cold war, and on the aggressive foreign policy." Moscow's advice to the budget framers is "to cut the insane astronomical sums allocated for war preparations...."

PRAGUE AND SOVIET-CONTROLLED AUSTRIA: In addition to attacking the message for requesting continuation of the Marshall Plan and of the allegedly aggressive policy against the democratic countries, the Prague radio predicts that the President's request for an extension of civil rights and abolition of the Taft-Hartley Act will remain merely a "scrap of paper." Exploiting the President's "admission" of an American "economic reverse" during the past year, a Soviet-controlled Austrian commentator claims that "the crisis movement" is therefore no mere "invention." He expresses doubt about "whether it has actually been possible to avoid any major effects of the crisis" and apparently finds it significant that "in his

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predictions of the future, Truman confined himself to forecasting U.S. production in the year 2000--something very vague and uncontrollable." This is contrasted with the immediate economic plans of countries with a "planned socialist economy."

MADRID: Labeling the message "an opening electoral campaign speech," the Madrid radio expresses disappointment over the generalized character of the President's remarks on foreign policy. The commentator states that "the world hopes for greater preciseness...." He also feels that as far as the President is concerned, "foreign policy is... subordinated to America's internal policy" where Truman's Fair Deal, in many of its "semi-socializing aspects, goes beyond the Rooseveltian New Deal." In this context, the present Congressional session is said to "promise a determined struggle between the hastiness of the Democrats and the energetic opposition of the Republicans." A comparable struggle is also predicted in the field of foreign policy where the "unity... between the Republicans and Democrats is being split."

(No. 2, 5-6 January 1950)

INTRODUCTION: Since yesterday's report in this series on foreign radio reactions to the President's message there has been an increase in monitored comment from both Western and Eastern Europe. The total quantity, however, is still not voluminous. West European opinion is preponderantly favorable; Soviet Satellite opinion, uniformly negative. As yet, there has been no comment from Radio Moscow; and lacking its lead, the available Satellite broadcasts have been confined primarily to relatively mild statements about the alleged American economic decline, present and future, and about American imperialism. There has been only one brief reference, from the Czechoslovak radio, to the President's remarks about Communism.

SATELLITE COMMENT: Reactions have been received from the Czechoslovak and Rumanian radios and from the Soviet-controlled radios in Berlin and Leipzig. Allegations of an American economic decline range from: (1) the charge that Truman himself denied the Western propagandists' claims of American prosperity and that his message reflected the fact of an American crisis (Bucharest and Soviet-controlled Leipzig); (2) through the contention that Truman "completely disregarded the unavoidable disintegration of American capitalism" (Bratislava); (3) to the thesis that he couldn't help being wrong about his assessment of developments during the next 50 years since he is "the spokesman of the declining bourgeois class and of world imperialism which is breaking up visibly before our eyes" (Prague). The Rumanian radio at Bucharest, attempting to document the President's alleged admission of a "strong economic decline during 1949," uses such phrases as "increasing number of bankruptcies and unemployed, falling of working people's standard of living, concentration of capital and profits, budgetary deficit,... hundreds of thousands of families freezing in huts or without any accommodation whatsoever, and millions of children without necessary schools...." (Of interest in this connection is the fact that Radio Moscow, although not yet commenting on the President's message, is currently broadcasting talks entitled "The Beginning of the Collapse of World Capitalism" and "The Gloomy Prospects for the Capitalist Economy.")

The Satellite comment includes standard attacks on the President's alleged affirmation of the expansionist and imperialist policy of the American Government. These attacks, however, are relatively mild as compared to previous denunciations. Although attention is given to American armaments and other evidences of alleged militarism, the word "war" appears only once--that is in the phrase, the "warlike policy of the American Government" (Bucharest). Only the Czechoslovak radio refers to Truman's anti-Communism: "Naturally Truman did not fail... to include incitement against the democratic forces and a warning against the danger of Communism." And a Soviet-controlled Leipzig commentator suggests that the Republicans, and not Truman himself, are primarily responsible for the President's anti-Soviet policy:

"A long time ago, the Republicans agreed to support Truman's foreign policy. However, they laid down a particularly severe condition--namely, that Truman should adopt the foreign policy of the Republicans which is mainly anti-Soviet."

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On the other hand, the Soviet-controlled Berlin radio, citing attacks on the President's message, includes criticisms leveled by Joseph Martin and Senator Taft.

Not a word has been said about the President's references to atomic energy.

WEST EUROPEAN COMMENT: The favorable West European comment centers primarily around the President's continuing support of the Marshall Plan and his remarks about America's obligations and responsibilities relative to world affairs. Also receiving favorable comment are his assurances about the good economic situation of the United States.

Occasional references are made to the approaching elections as the context for his message; but they are explanatory rather than critical.

A few broadcasts note, generally without comment, the President's omission of references to China.

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