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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

COUNTRY Foreign
SUBJECT FOREIGN RADIO REACTIONS TO TRUMAN'S
AND ACHESON'S ASNE SPEECHES

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INTRODUCTION: It has taken the Soviet radio an unusually long time--five days--
to reply to the President's ASNE speech. And then, in a Valentin Zorin commentary on
25 April and a PRAVDA article by Marinin the following day, it treats the President's and
Acheson's speeches as two of a kind--"once more revealing both Truman and Acheson as rabid
warmongers" and as "obviously seized with alarm" over the success of the "international
movement of the Partisans of Peace." Typically, neither the Moscow radio nor the monitored
Communist sources outside of the USSR attempt to answer the charges against Soviet-
Communism except by such standard epithets as "slanders" and "lies"; instead, by the
familiar use of highly generalized distortions of motives, intentions, and realities--
illustrating in their very replies the propaganda characteristics described by both the
President and Mr. Acheson--Moscow and its non-Soviet counterparts launch their standard
tactic of propaganda attack. Noteworthy is the complete avoidance of any reference to the
concept of freedom which figured so prominently in both speeches.

Monitored broadcasts from foreign radios in the Western World are almost unanimous
in their approval of both speeches. The major exception is a Madrid commentary which
sarcastically examines Acheson's six lines of recommended action and concludes that each
of them results in "Communism coming out the winner" or "benefitting in the end." The
MANCHESTER GUARDIAN applauds the President's intention to counter the Soviet propagandists'
image of America, but warns that such "sneer campaigns" as those recently directed at
Acheson and Jessup "have been a gift to the Communists and have made observers in other
countries cynical about American political judgment."

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"TOTAL PROPAGANDA IN THE SERVICE OF AGGRESSION": As with almost all of Soviet-Communist propaganda, whatever the event, the replies contend that the speeches are simply further evidence of American aggression, domination, and warmongering. This point is made, however, primarily by the device of dogmatic assertion rather than by any substantive analysis of the speeches' contents. There is, in fact, a dearth of the latter, suggesting a desire to distract attention from the speeches' specific substance and to channel attention instead into the long-established, slogan-like formulas that are constantly applied to American policy and actions. Marinin distorts the President's statement about breaking down barriers to free communication, changing it to "removing from the path of American imperialism the national frontiers of individual countries." Similarly, he transforms the President's reference to increased American-foreign contacts into "sending to various countries a considerably larger number of its agents." Finally, Acheson's recommendation for expanding the international political machinery we already have is twisted into "the aggressive North Atlantic bloc, that instrument for the unleashing of a war, is to be extended further"; and on the basis of this slanted paraphrase Marinin claims that among the six lines of action on the Truman-Acheson agenda is "expansion of the armaments race, encouragement of militarism, and development of the cold war." Aside from some derogatory Satellite radio allusions to Truman's and Acheson's "exaggerated pseudo-peace campaign," there are few other references to the substantive element of the speeches.

"THE SHARP NECESSITY OF SELLING UNWANTED MERCHANDISE": Zorin examines the causes that "forced Truman and Acheson to become engaged in this little-respected business of advertising American democracy." Doing so, he resorts to the favorite device of putting words of "admission" into the mouths of American spokesmen. In this case, it is Truman who, by his alleged statement "that on the propaganda campaign depends the success of the Marshall Plan and the aid program," was "thus forced to admit the failure of the Marshall Plan and the growth of resistance to the aggressive measures of American imperialism." Therefore, says Zorin, the explanation for the "advertising campaign" lies in the "sharp necessity of selling this unwanted merchandise. ... It is a well-established fact that the goods which sell easily do not require special advertising, and only those goods require advertising for which there is no sale."** In addition to the "unwanted merchandise" identified by Zorin with American foreign policy, Marinin lists the following elements of the "notorious American 'democracy': the system of lynch trials, the Ku Klux Klan gangs, racial persecution, chronic mass unemployment, and poverty for millions."

SPEECHES "ADMIT" THE SUCCESS OF THE "PEACE CAMP": Currently, the volume of the Soviet radio's "peace campaign" material, associated with the Stockholm Resolution to condemn the first user of atomic weapons, has reached its all-time highest peak. And throughout all of the Soviet-Communist replies to the speeches runs the theme that by attacking Communist propaganda Truman and Acheson in effect admitted and confirmed that the "peace movement" is having great success--and that they considered it "serious enough to require the mobilization of the press, radios, and agents of imperialism against it" by "spreading more lies throughout the world." But such lies, it is said, will only result in popular "contempt" and the further growth of the "mighty camp of peace and democracy."

"MR. ACHESON HAS HIT UPON THE FORMULA": Typical of the sarcasm that pervades the Madrid radio's commentary on Acheson's speech is the following passage:

"He believes that the democracies should put into practice a six-point formula which has just occurred to him. ... As regards the first point, faith and freedom, we do not believe it will be difficult to carry out. Faith in freedom, of course! On the national front, Communism thrives, thanks to the freedom granted by the democratic nations. On the international front, Stalin has bestowed upon all peoples the most sinister of all freedoms, the freedom of fear. ... All have faith in the freedom to do what either their altruism or their baseness dictates. And it is Communism that benefits in the end."

* It will be remembered that the President actually said: "The Marshall Plan, military aid, Point Four--these... depend for their success on the understanding and support of our own citizens and those of other countries."

** The irony of such a statement coming from a Soviet propagandist is apparently lost on Zorin.

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