

INFORMATION	FROM
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COUNTRY ALBANIA, BULGARIA, HUNGARY,
RUMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA; GREECE

SUBJECT Radio Broadcasting:
Programmatic Characteristics and Techniques

DATE DIST. 30 March 1951

NO. OF PAGES 6

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE

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A. Albania

1. Home Service

The Albanian Home Service from Radio Tirana is, in the main, broadcast simultaneously by transmitters in five other cities; distinct regional programming is confined to secondary material. The programs are well organized and well presented. Male and female announcers use good diction and clear, simple Albanian. News and commentary are interspersed with feature and cultural programs. One daily period is devoted to detailed home news, one to dictation-speed news for outlying areas, and two to relaying Moscow's Albanian broadcasts.

Domestic news and comment in the home service, unlike that beamed abroad, contains a large proportion of self-criticism. Foreign news and comment is based largely on TASS or taken from Cominform and Soviet journals. The Soviet line is followed closely. Tito is a frequent target.

2. Foreign Service

The programs in other European languages are broadcast from Tirana only. Their quality in general is far inferior to that of the home service.

a. Greek: A male announcer reads newscasts and commentaries in poor Greek with faulty sentence construction, giving the impression that the script is written by someone whose knowledge of Greek is inadequate. Diction is poor. The programs follow the Soviet pattern and Soviet line. The source of news is seldom mentioned. Western policies are denounced, particularly Anglo-American imperialism in the Balkans.

b. Serbo-Croat: Programs are read by a female announcer in very poor Serbo-Croat. Diction is poor. Sentence structure is incorrect and the scripts are obviously translations from Albanian. The announcer appears to be an Albanian. Newscasts and brief commentaries are broadcast. News is for the most part under foreign datelines. Commentaries are on either domestic or international topics and are announced as having been prepared by the "commentator." The Soviet pattern is followed closely in all broadcasts. The programs are on a low intellectual level, apparently for the benefit of the lower classes. Any mention of Tito or the Tito co-workers is accompanied by vitriolic adjectives.

c. Turkish: A low Turkish, grammatically incorrect, is used by a male announcer. Apparently the announcer is Albanian, and scripts are translated from Albanian. The newscasts and commentaries never attack Turkey. On

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domestic topics they speak of the successes being achieved by the Albanian people under the Communist regime. The Western Powers are sharply criticized. Tito is spoken of as a fascist imperialist agent, and is accused of having imperialistic designs on Albania. Talks by Albanian leaders are broadcast in translation.

B. Bulgaria

1. Home Service

The Bulgarian Home Service is broadcast over three transmitters: Sofia I, also called "Christo Botev" after a Bulgarian revolutionary hero, on 827 kcs; Sofia II on 593 kcs, and Sofia III on 2641 kcs. All three are in operation some time during the day, at times simultaneously.

Male and female announcers alternate in presenting programs. The language used is a low Bulgarian, easily understood by all elements of the population, except when government decrees or talks by important persons are broadcast. A large number of Russian words, particularly technical terms, have infiltrated the Bulgarian language under the present regime. Grammar and sentence construction are poor. Diction is good and enunciation is clear. The programs are well organized and well presented and follow a definite pattern. Radio Sofia can be depended upon to adhere to its time and program schedules, and any changes or special programs are announced in advance.

Newscasts follow the Soviet pattern. Successes achieved in industry, agriculture or any other field of endeavor are stressed continually. Achievements of individual enterprises or individual workers are reported in great volume. News from the Soviet Union is featured in detail. Foreign news usually follows the Cominform line.

The radio is used freely for the purpose of transmitting official government decrees, special reports or information. Talks by Bulgarian Government officials are broadcast in full. Reports on Communist conferences and other official functions are given in detail. Talks by Soviet leaders are often broadcast in full, and at least are quoted in length.

Commentaries for the most part bear on relations between Bulgaria and other countries in Southeastern Europe. The Cominform line is usually followed. Press reviews are broadcast daily. There has been a slight change recently in the manner of the presentation of these reviews: whereas formerly special emphasis was given to certain editorials and articles, lately the reviews have been limited to general surveys of the press with no special attention to any particular items.

2. Foreign Service

a. English: Male and female announcers alternate in the English language programs. Diction and enunciation are poor. The impression is that the script writers as well as the announcers are Bulgarians with poor knowledge of the English language. Newscasts and talks constitute the usual broadcast. The pattern of the newscasts is uniform: Bulgarian and Soviet news first, followed by news from other countries. Domestic news stresses the fulfillment of national plans, differing from similar news in Bulgarian in that the latter puts greater stress on successes achieved by individual enterprises and workers. Summaries of official decrees as well as summarized versions of talks by Bulgarian leaders are broadcast. Commentaries emphasize the peace efforts of the Soviet Union and People's Democracies against the war provocations and aggressive designs of the Anglo-American powers and their allies. Once a week a special feature, "This is America," pictures life in the United States as seen through Bulgarian Communist eyes.

b. Serbo-Croat: News and commentaries are broadcast to Yugoslavia. The news usually stresses the successes achieved in Bulgaria under the Communist regime. Bulgarian and Yugoslav emigre newspapers are quoted frequently. Considerable stress is laid on the Macedonian question and the commentaries emphasize the poor living conditions of the Macedonians under the Tito regime.

c. Turkish: Male and female announcers alternate in reading the programs. The language used is poor Turkish, not always grammatically correct, although easily understandable. The script writer's knowledge of the language appears poor. Diction is good and enunciation is clear. Newscasts and brief commentaries are

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broadcast. The Soviet pattern is followed closely in the presentation of domestic and foreign news. TASS, Bulgarian Telegraph Agency, and Teletype Agency are used as sources. The commentaries mostly concern Turkey and its relations with the Western Powers. The Cominform line is adhered to closely in this respect. Anglo-American imperialism in Turkey is a frequent subject. The country is often referred to as "Marshallized Turkey," and as a stooge of the Western Powers. Of late the Turkish refugee question has been in the limelight. Soviet and Satellite peace efforts are a favorite topic.

C. Hungary

Notes on typical foreign services.

1. Greek. Greek audiences hear news and comment primarily on Greek and international affairs. The Free Greece Radio is frequently quoted as source. On Sundays a period is devoted to a program for children, which features the reading of children's letters protesting the illegal acts and injustices of the Western Powers.
2. German. News, commentaries, and features follow a set order or pattern. The news stresses Cominform countries and activities. The commentaries emphasize good relations with the USSR, the features report speeches or activities of well-known Communists or sympathizers. The news is slanted and of doubtful validity as news. The items are not always new; sometimes they are repeated from the previous day's programs. On the other hand, items which are new are sometimes repeated on the evening English programs, but in amplified form.
3. English to Europe. Programs consist of news items, commentaries, and special features. The news section consists of world news and home news presented in that order. World news coverage is generally centered around activities of the USSR and Satellites. It seems to be limited to describing official state and Communist Party visits among these nations, cultural exchanges, the peace programs and conferences, and the Stockholm appeal. When the program covers countries out of this orbit, it is generally to give news of strikes or unrest, of peace petitions and protest activities by Communist Parties in the Western countries. Home news is usually limited to a coverage of cultural, political, and economic progress in Hungary. The commentaries run from three to six minutes and are very similar in content to those broadcast over Radio Moscow. Special features are presented from time to time. A regular weekly feature entitled "Life of the Microses" presents domestic scenes from a "typical" Budapest family. Other features include "peace programs" and "on-the-spot" visits to Hungarian industrial establishments, celebrations etc. The material presented, while it resembles Radio Moscow's in a general way, seems to be less impersonal, lofty, and frenzied. Radio Moscow news favorable to the Communist cause is reported immediately, while unfavorable news, such as the Korean reverses in September and October, is withheld completely or is given a cursory coverage.
4. English to North America. The programs are similar in pattern and content to the English programs for Europe at 2200, but tend to have more items, approximately one-third of which are repeated from earlier broadcasts. They are definitely slanted at North American listeners, even the repeat items being recast, if necessary to emphasize the attack on Americans and on U.S. institutions.

D. Rumania

1. Home Service in Rumanian

The Rumanian Home Services emanate from Radio Bucharest, and Brasov's Radio Romania. All Rumanian-language programs are heard on both simultaneously. Male and female announcers broadcast in good literary Rumanian. Announcers appear well trained. Diction and enunciation are excellent. There is very little transmitter trouble and the stations adhere strictly to their schedules. Special programs are announced in advance.

The services are extensive; newscasts, press reviews, commentaries, talks and feature programs are presented throughout 18 hours daily. Newscast material is divided about equally between domestic and foreign items. The domestic news dwells largely on the successes being achieved in Rumania in all fields. The Soviet pattern is followed closely in presentation. Government decrees, plans and reports are given in full. Reports from the Soviet Union are a regular feature.

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News from the West reflects the Communist point of view. The press reviews are limited to the Bucharest press and are very brief and sketchy.

Commentaries on domestic affairs glorify the present regime and recount the successes of the Rumanian people in their efforts to build the Communist state. The commentaries on international affairs follow the Communist line in pointing out the imperialistic tendencies of the Anglo-American bloc. The Korean war has served as a stimulus for such commentaries. Heads of the Western states are frequently described in such terms as "henait," "liar," and "provocateur." A special range of invectives is reserved for them. Cominform commentaries are broadcast frequently.

2. Foreign-Language Programs

A Transylvanian regional service from Timisoara has brief periods of Serbo-Croat, Hungarian and German, and Radio Romania broadcasts in German and Hungarian to the national minorities. It is characteristic of these newscasts that they are more moderate in tone than the programs in Rumanian.

A limited foreign service in European languages is maintained. In the Greek periods, male and female announcers use good literary Greek. Diction and enunciation are good. Domestic and foreign news make up the content of the newscasts. Free Greece Radio is freely used as a source. Commentaries bear generally on the relations of Greece with the Western Powers and with the Cominform.

3. Press Services

The official AGERPRES (formerly SADOPI) agency, which serves Rumanian papers by means of Hellschreiber transmissions, also maintains Morse services in Russian and in English for the USSR and Europe. The English file carries domestic news and features covering activities of the Government and the Communist Party and its various agencies, decrees, speeches, plans, etc.; data on industrial, agricultural, mining, and allied fields, showing the progress of socialization and reconstruction; labor, cultural, educational, and sports activities, as well as items reflecting unfavorably on the Church as an institution. The selection of international news and commentaries on events is governed by propaganda policy; factual information is used only to the extent that it serves a propaganda purpose, and facts are twisted as necessary for this purpose.

The quality of writing and style are poor. Words are often misused; significant words are often lost in condensation. The text is usually difficult to edit. The appeal is to the emotions of an uncritical, uninformed audience. TASS, Moscow Radio, and other Soviet-sphere radios and press services are quoted, and material from other sources is used when it furthers the Soviet line. The material is frequently a rehash of content transmitted several days before, with some added detail.

The transmission is regular and prompt. The speed is about 20 words per minute; the tape is poorly punched, and corrections are sent only infrequently. Operator uses "Q" signals and numbers the items consecutively, but misuses the indication "para" or "more," sometimes obscuring the division between items.

E. Yugoslavia

1. Home Service

The Yugoslav Home Service from Belgrade is supplemented by some dozen regional services in Serbo-Croat and minority languages, which, however, are similar in pattern and content to the Belgrade broadcasts.

Newscasts give domestic and foreign news about equal weight. The news is presented more objectively than it is by Cominform radios, but less objectively than by Western sources. There is less stress on the successes of Yugoslav socialism in domestic broadcasting than in the programs beamed abroad. The Belgrade press review presents summarized versions of editorials and articles as well as news reports from the press of the capital.

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Commentaries may concern either national or international affairs. There is stress on the Marx-Lenin line as opposed to the Marx-Lenin-Stalin line. The Soviet Union and Satellites, as well as Cominform policies, are strongly criticized, while the Western Powers are criticized only in a perfunctory manner.

Children and youth programs, lectures on various topics and music make up the bulk of the other programs. The youth programs usually urge greater efforts in school and at work.

2. Foreign Services

In 1950 Yugoslavia discontinued broadcasting to Western European audiences, confining its propaganda effort principally to Russian and Satellite languages, of which the following are examples.

a. Bulgarian: The usual opening announcement is: "Listen to the truth about Yugoslavia." Male and female announcers usually alternate in presenting the news and commentaries which make up the program. Fair Bulgarian is used, but diction is poor. There is very little news about Bulgaria in these programs. Considerable time is devoted to reports from Macedonia. U.N. and U.N. Committee proceedings are reported in detail. Events in Yugoslavia are reported extensively.

b. Rumanian: Newscasts with occasional commentaries are broadcast by male and female announcers. Domestic and foreign news is featured. News is presented in an objective manner. Commentaries are highly critical of the USSR and its Satellites. U.N. proceedings are reported extensively.

c. Albanian from Belgrade: Male and female announcers broadcast news and commentaries in fair Albanian. Diction is good. News is primarily of events in Yugoslavia, with occasional reports on the good life enjoyed by Albanians living in Yugoslavia. Occasional commentaries, usually from BORBA, criticize Albania for its adherence to the Soviet Union and its policies. The Soviet Union and the Cominform are bitterly criticized for their attitude towards Yugoslavia.

d. Albanian from Skoplje: Local, national, and foreign news, with only an occasional commentary from BORBA, are broadcast. Male and female announcers read the programs in poor Albanian. Diction is poor. Foreign news items are usually those already reported by Belgrade radio. Occasional commentaries quote the local Macedonian press or comment on the life of Albanians in Macedonia.

3. Press Services

TANYUG (New Yugoslavia Telegraph Agency) transmits in Serb and English Hellschreiber and Morse to the Yugoslav press and to Europe generally. The English transmission consists mostly of national, but some international news, covering Government notes and decrees, national and regional political events, economic developments with emphasis on progress of the State's industrial and agricultural plans, but little on transportation and communications. A large proportion of the time is devoted to chess, sports, and similar activities. Most reports on social developments--labor, cultural, educational, etc.--stress the success of the political system. Statements by Yugoslav representatives in international organizations and events affecting Yugoslavia, its member Republics, and the various minorities, are given good coverage. Press reviews cover BORBA, other Yugoslav papers, and some foreign papers when Yugoslavia or the Yugoslav-Cominform feud is touched upon. Press and other commentaries reflect the official position--Communist but anti-Cominform and anti-Soviet: a virulent attack on the Cominform may be accompanied by a milder rap at the West.

The script is usually written in fairly good English, in conventional style, with British spelling, and directed to the average reader. News appears authentic, but selection and emphasis are governed by propaganda policy.

The designation TANYUG identifies each item. The copy runs 35 words per minute. The tape is poorly punched, and corrections are not sent very often. Operator uses "Q" signals, and numbers items consecutively.

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F. Greece

1. Home Service

The following observations refer to the Athens central home service, which however is supplemented by a number of regional services and broadcasts for the armed forces.

Generally a female announcer identifies the station and announces the nature of the program; a male announcer reads the program itself. Good literary Greek, although easily understandable to the masses, is used. Diction is generally good. Presentation is good and programs are well organized. Radio Athens is dependable in adhering to its time and program schedules. All schedule changes or special programs are announced well in advance. There is very little transmitter trouble.

In newscasts, home news is read first with foreign news following. Home service newscasts carry a heavier percentage of home news than the similar programs beamed abroad. Otherwise the news is about equally divided between domestic events and events in foreign lands. The standard news agencies, such as United Press, Associated Press, Reuters, and occasionally the Athens News Agency are sources for foreign news. TASS is usually the source for news from the Soviet Union. Special announcements are given at the beginning of a newscast and repeated at the end.

Radio Athens is used freely to disseminate information on Government affairs and for the broadcast of talks by Greek Government leaders. Commentaries may deal with domestic or international affairs. Criticisms of Cominform policies are sharp and frequent. Press reviews are strictly objective and rather sketchy. In all its broadcasts the Radio appears to strive for objective presentation, and in many respects follows the BBC pattern of broadcasting.

2. Foreign Services

The following are examples of Athens broadcasts abroad.

a. Rumanian: Newscasts and commentaries are broadcast in excellent Rumanian. News presentations are objective. Commentaries on Rumania, sometimes highly critical, are frequent. Other commentaries pertain to relations between Greece and its Balkan neighbors or to international affairs in general, with the Greek point of view reflected. The programs are well organized and well presented.

b. Albanian: Greek home news as well as news under foreign datelines is featured. Occasional commentaries on Albania, while critical, are nevertheless couched in diplomatic language. Good Albanian is used.

3. Free Greece Radio

The clandestine transmitter is believed located in southern Rumania.

Male and female announcers alternate in broadcasting newscasts and commentaries. A low Greek, understandable to the lower classes of the Greek population, is used. Diction and enunciation are good. Programs are well arranged and well presented. The tone of delivery for commentaries is definitely inflammatory. The commentaries are highly critical of the Greek Government and frequently incite the people to open rebellion. Long commentaries and talks are sometimes divided into sections, broadcast on successive days. The Soviet and Cominform line is adhered to closely, with constant reference to Anglo-American imperialism, especially in regard to Greece. A 'Fighters' Seminar program, broadcast three times weekly, carries instructions for present action and for preparations for the "Day."

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