SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "To" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "To" column. Each officer should initial (Check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Record and Routing Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM: Mr James L. Fisher, II/Commo
Room 2508A - Building K - Ext 666

7 July 50

NO.

DATE

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE REC'D	DATE FWD'D	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
1. CS-II	2030		7 Jul	[ ]	1 & 2 Excellent report,
2. II/Commo			13 July 50	[ ]	thanks.
3. CS-II	K 2030		~~12 July~~ 20		1 How much of this info was known when project was undertaken?
4.					[ ]
5.					
6.					2-3. Commo and S&S were careful to explain thoroughly to all parties the undesirability of such an installation while maintaining that some material would get through with full knowledge of the enclosed the project officer felt it was necessary, and worth a try, to put this unit in while attempts were made to get clearance for the larger station.
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

[ ]

U

DOCUMENT NO.
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1979
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE 10/9/79 REVIEWER: [ ]

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

COPY

FINAL

FORM NO. 51.10
APR 1949

SECRET

[redacted]

5 July 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, [redacted] 3

SUBJECT: Information regarding existing mobile propaganda equipment

REFERENCE: Verbal request for information on above.

1. The subject equipment is being constructed on CIA facilities in Bethesda, Maryland, because of the urgency involved. Previous work on such equipment (the mobile cw base station for the U. K.) has been done outside the Agency by contract with such organizations as the U. S. Navy or Lockheed Corporation.

2. Following are short resumes on specific questions asked verbally by [redacted] 3 representatives:

a. Cost. Each complete broadcasting unit (broadcast truck, trailer containing power source, and transportation jeep) cost approximately $15,000, excluding labor.

b. Diagrams. See Attachment A.

c. Power source. Power is provided by gasoline generator - trailer (PE-95).

d. Type of antenna. It is assumed that a description of general type is desired rather than technical description. The antennas consist of wire strung between two towers which can be erected or disassembled within a few hours by a crew of three men. It should be noted here that the antenna system is a highly-limiting factor in the relative mobility of the system. It is not possible to use the whip antenna system usually seen on mobile communications trucks of this type because of the nature of the broadcasting being done. Since at best the equipment which lends itself to this type of an installation is very inadequate from normal broadcasting standards, every possible advantage to be gained by proper antenna development and use must be taken, within the limits of the physical capabilities of the truck crew and desired mobility of the station. For the existing equipment the specified range was 300 - 500 miles, on short wave frequencies, which made a 200-foot folded dipole between two 50-foot towers necessary. A minimum of three men and six hours is required to erect the antenna system at present, though the time required may be cut slightly by experience. No attempt

was made to make the antenna directional other than to fire broadside off the major axis of the dipole, standard procedure under any circumstance.

It can be seen from the above that the equipment presently being prepared for operation should be considered portable rather than mobile, and for this type of broadcasting it should be assumed that the situation cannot be improved except to a minor extent, regardless of the range involved.

e. Equipment used. Following is the equipment used in the present unit:

(1) One six-by-six Army 2½ ton truck with an HQ17 communications shelter attached to the bed of the truck to serve as the radio station.

(2) One PE-95 trailer with gasoline-driven power generator. Supplies power for all equipment including lighting system.

(3) One jeep with ½ ton cargo trailer.

(4) HT-4G 500 watt transmitter and associated equipment for voice broadcasting.

(5) Recording equipment for play back of recorded programs into transmitter.

(6) Hammerlund communications receiver and 20 watt cw transmitter for cw contact between truck and base for operating instructions and position reports.

(7) Camping and housekeeping equipment for all members of operating crew, including rations, bedding, shelter, etc.

(8) Adequate safe storage equipment for such items as cipher materials, recorded programs, logs, etc.

(9) Two fifty foot lattice type towers in eight foot sections complete with necessary guy lines and securing pins, plus antenna wire.

3. It should be pertinent here to give a brief description of the larger, though less difficult physically, operation which must be conducted in the field in support of the actual broadcasting facilities. Propaganda material must be prepared from (1) "party line" to be taken, (2) monitored broadcasts from the target area, (3) other sources. Source (2) involves good receiving facilities at the base of operations and an extensive recording establishment. The recording facilities must

also be able to record "cans" of prepared, edited, cut and spliced broadcast material for physical relay to the truck. There must be communications facilities established to maintain control of the movement of the trucks and to monitor the broadcast schedules of the truck in order that frequency changes may be ordered to get out from under jamming and interference.

Maintenance of the trucks and their equipment must be provided under cover consistent with that used by the trucks.

In Project [redacted]STAIR it was found that to support two broadcasting trucks emitting the same program it was necessary to have a base complement of approximately 10 to 12 commo technicians, exclusive of all propaganda personnel.

It should be pointed out also that physical contact is necessary between the propaganda preparation center and the broadcast truck in order that the recorded programs can be transferred, and it is not considered feasible to conduct both parts of the operation, preparation and transmission, from one facility, since the problem of keeping a preparation center both efficient and mobile is beyond other than extraordinary facilities.

4. Though there are undeniable advantages to long wave broadcasting, such as the increasing prevalence of that type of receiver behind the Iron Curtain, it is not considered technically feasible to conduct such broadcasts from mobile or portable facilities, since the antenna array becomes much too cumbersome at this frequency range.

5. At the risk of seeming pessimistic, I have attempted to outline as realistically as possible the problems involved in making a voice broadcasting facility mobile or portable. The problems involved in finding personnel to man such a unit have not been discussed, though in an organization of civilian employees the problems are extensive when the duty involved becomes both physically uncomfortable and semi-hazardous. It is obvious that cover remains a tremendous problem, though it is the primary reason for attempting to place the unit on wheels. In the final analysis, the limited results possible with this type of equipment (and it should be recognized that the signal strength at the receiving end of the circuit will not compare favorably with local facilities and will fluctuate with atmospheric and man-made interference conditions to a degree that reception must be considered spotty at best) must be balanced against the actual inability of the organization to accomplish the task with fixed facilities. It is not the best answer to the problem, though it may be the only answer in some cases.

[II/Commo]