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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : USIS Bonn

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USIA Washington

DESP. NO.

TO : ~~THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON~~

December 3, 1954

DATE

REF :

4 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DATE USIA: Mr. William L. Clark, 12-15-54
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SUBJECT: CURRENT INFORMATION REPORT: RIAS Effectiveness

RIAS has received the following letter from the Investigating Committee of Free Europe testifying to the effectiveness of RIAS broadcasts to East ~~Germany~~

Walter Gerhard
Director of Labor Broadcasts
RIAS
Berlin.

November 4, 1954

Dear Mr. Gerhard,

Railway men from all parts of the Soviet Zone confirm that RIAS broadcasts for railway men are well received. Whereas in the area of _____, reception was possible also on the medium wave band, the northern part of the Soviet Zone has been left to long wave (12:00-12:30). A railway man from _____ mentioned to us a series of broadcasts for railway men to which he had listened in the past two months. He gave further details of examples cited in the broadcasts. According to these statements, each railway man or his family listen to the RIAS news broadcasts.

It has been reported to us from the ministry for railway matters that the Central Committee of the SED has been irritated by the RIAS broadcasts for railway men. The broadcasts are recorded on tape and then transcribed. One copy goes to the ministry for railway matters which forwards it for comments to the political board of supervision for the office and persons mentioned in the broadcasts. As an example, the broadcast was mentioned in which the medical superintendent of the "Deutschen Reichsbahn", Kretschmer, was cited and his insufficient measures for fighting occupational disease were branded. The manuscript was submitted to Kretschmer.

The recent dissolution of the movement called "Railway Conductor of a New Type" apparently is a result of these broadcasts for railway men. In a

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

Thomas J. Carolan
A/Deputy Director, Berlin

REPORTER

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broadcast referring to this movement we had called upon the railway men not to join it because the "Railway Conductor of a New Type" is supposed to render agent's services. This broadcast was pretty successful insofar as only 120 out of 7,500 railway men of the Soviet Zone railway joined the movement.

Neither does it seem to be mere accident that six out of eight examples mentioned in the directive of the Soviet Zonal ministry for railway affairs of October 12, 1954, referring to new measures for the improvement of shop security, had been cited before in RIAS broadcasts for railway men. Apparently the new directive with reference to a more intensified prevention of accidents within the Soviet Zonal railway has also been occasioned by RIAS broadcasts.

It is again and again stressed by visitors to our railway section that the broadcasts for railway men are very popular. It is regrettable, that reception on the medium wave band is very much jammed and that the railway men do not know in advance on what day and at what hour this broadcast goes on the air.----- (signed: The Investigating Committee of Free Jurists.)

(HICOG/PUB:PPS:Reports Office/ua)

Joseph B. Phillips
FOR

Joseph B. Phillips
Director

Office of Public Affairs

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