

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

By  
Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Station WGMS at 7-7:15 P.M.  
26 December 1957

Portions of this broadcast have been omitted due to the fact that they did not pertain to the Radio Free Europe operation or the CIA in any way.

Well, let's get back to our report on Radio Free Europe, which was interrupted by the Christmas season. The backers of Radio Free Europe have a standard defense for every criticism that is made of their operations and of the type of broadcasts they're beaming behind the iron curtain: that the Russians are making tremendous efforts, spending huge sums of money to jam those broadcasts; and the contention is that this proves that the propaganda is good, that it is the message of freedom as advertised. You've heard this their slogan--"help truth fight Communism."

The fact is, the so-called political exiles who were taken into the Free Europe organization to run it--and in many cases such is the case of Ferdinand Perutka, which I cited to you Monday evening, are still running it--were exiled because they wanted to control the governments in question in the interest of their own brand of national Communism and got deposed by the Russian puppets at the hands of the Russian occupying armies and thus fled their respective countries. For instance, to go back to Perutka, one of his most renowned statements is the following, and this is a direct quote: "Capitalism means anarchy in production and consumption. The legitimate place of the intelligentsia is on the side of the economic plan. Neither democracy nor intelligentsia must link their fate with capitalism. For too long a time has the intelligentsia been serving capitalism, whose characteristic feature is that it is not quite intelligent." And this, you must remember, is the man who since May Day of 1951 has been in complete charge of the Czechoslovakian operations of Radio Free Europe.

And here's another quote from him: "In 1917 they began a new epoch of mankind. Every day we recognize that the Russian revolution passes the borders of a state. It is a world-wide philosophy for which one can fight in every part of the earth." And this: "We have often told ourselves that in our country," meaning Czechoslovakia, "there is only one possible evolution toward socialism. Did we contribute by our deeds to this evolution or did we oppose it? If we are working for a better future

and are willing to lay the foundation of socialism, which one day will be accepted by the whole world, then we should act in a manner enabling us to say one day with pride: "I took part, I helped in this achievement."

Now these are the man's own statements and by them its possible to get a very much clearer idea of what he stands for than by any press agent claims by some self-defending employees of the organization that hires Mr. Perutka, puts him in charge of the propaganda to the iron curtain countries, and who want to hold their jobs that they now hold over him. And I think ladies and gentlemen that you can decide as well as I can whether this man is dedicated to the ideals and doctrines of the free world, the story of which he is supposed to bespeak, or whether in fact he is a dedicated socialist who was a collaborator with the Russians as long as they let him be a collaborator.

The fact is Mr. Perutka is using Radio Free Europe to promote the same partisan, political ideology that he was promoting when the Russians threw him out of the country and put their own quislings into power. Mr. Perutka has much to say about his friendship with Eduard Benes, who was in power when the Russians took over. The fact is that Benes himself was an out-and-out collaborator with the Russians and, in the role of head of the free Czechoslovakian government in exile, made a treaty of friendship and cooperation with Moscow in 1943 while the war was still going on despite the strenuous disapproval of Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

It was Benes, who compromised time and again with the Russian Communists after the war; it was Benes, who nationalized the great Czechoslovakian industries; it was Benes, who personally issued an amnesty proclamation which freed political prisoners, and he did so at the demand of the Russian Communists themselves. And this is the man whom the backers of Radio Free Europe present as the character witness for their Mr. Ferdinand Perutka.

There are others in the organization with virtually identical backgrounds and I'll present them and their statements from time to time in the future.

For the moment, however, I want to turn momentarily to one of the affiliated organizations of Radio Free Europe: the balloon propaganda program for transmission of propaganda leaflets to Communist populations. This is operated by a young man named Samuel S. Walker, Jr., whose grandfather was prominent in the National City Bank of New York. He's a Yale man with an Ivy League atmosphere and a Brooks Brothers appearance, a very smooth personality, 31 years old. He was editor of the Yale Daily News, and there is quite a clique of similar young Ivy Leaguers in the top councils of the Free Europe operation generally.

I've had two interviews with Mr. Walker about that balloon propaganda program, which was officially ordered out of existence on December 3, 1956, and one would suppose that under such orders the operation would be closed down by this time. On the contrary, it has not been. Mr. Walker's side of the outfit has made some reduction in personnel, but it has busied itself about finding other fields of operation to justify its continued existence and, as of the last official reports, it still had approximately 135 people on the present payroll.

Mr. Walker's new idea is the so-called Asian contacts program in which he has sent a number of individuals to Asiatic countries, the Middle East, and Far East, with salaries, with expense accounts, per diem allowances, to show a moving picture entitled "Hungary Aflame," which is a sort of documentary of the Hungarian revolution of October 1956. Just what this has to do with sending the message of freedom to the captive people behind the iron curtain, I fail to understand. This, quite to the contrary, is the process of propagandizing the people of our free outside world--but Mr. Walker has his own ideas on this score.

The important angle is, the people whom he sent on these missions, and one of them is one Imre Kovacs, one-time leader of the National Peasant party in postwar Russian-occupied Hungary. His party never commanded much of a following among the people and his critics charged that it was operating chiefly for the purpose of splitting the small Peasants party, which was anti-Communist and anti-Socialist. Be that as it may, Mr. Kovacs was a collaborator with the Communists and, as of the last check I made several weeks ago, was still not a naturalized citizen of the United States. Whether he is at the present time or not, I am not attempting to say because since I began investigating this Free Europe operation a lot of things have happened inside of it very quickly.

In any event, let me present to you some quotes from this man who is traveling the world as the official emissary of the Free Europe committee of the United States of America showing the picture and delivering a lecture along with it. Perhaps in as much as he is representing the United States, you, as an American, might be interested in seeing what he thinks of us. Well, here is a direct quote: "The average American mentality does not understand the geographical divisions in Europe. The mechanical style and wording of their newspapers, the general use of platitudes, the Coca Cola and chewing gum--which if you are lucky is not spat into your face but onto the seats of the buses of the subways, and when you get home you can hardly scrape it off your clothes or your shoes--are all inexorable and ruthless signs

and elements of a modern civilization which has reached its climax in Americanism. Ideologically, America is unprepared. It can hardly be taken into consideration as an opponent of Bolshevism. America stands firmly against Bolshevism, but it knows not what to offer in its place."

That is Imre Kovacs, whose missionary work over the free world in behalf of Free Europe and as a representative of the United States, you are being called upon to support with your truth dollars..