

MEMO OF CONVERSATION

February 11, 1971

with: Carl Coleman -- on staff of Congressman Michael McKeVitt (sp?)

Coleman phoned (late morning) to ask for information to help him in answering letters received by his congressman from constituents who had read the New York Times story on Senator Case's statement.

He explained that McKeVitt was a freshman representative from (I believe) Colorado...at least somewhere beyond the Mississippi... party not stated. (He didn't spell the name, and we don't have a new Congressional Directory available yet to check it.)

One letter he referred to only vaguely; apparently it was from someone expressing displeasure that the funding of RFE had been "concealed" from the American people. Another he described in more detail: it was from a radio-station owner in the congressman's district who was angry at the secrecy, but mainly indignant that the taxpayers' money was being thrown away, without their knowledge, on operations which "did no good." He said that he or any other competent American radio station operator could do the job of both RFE and RL for "a couple of million dollars a year." (Coleman didn't indicate that the station owner had been asked to run our ads, or had any complaint on that score.)

Coleman said that he himself was a radio man, and had always been sympathetic to the work of RFE and RL, and without knowing a great deal about their operations in detail was quite sure that they couldn't be run for "a couple of million dollars." However, he needed some information in order to answer the letters somehow. STAT He said he supposed the figures given by Case were approximately STAT correct (I didn't comment), and assumed that we did raise quite a bit of money from American business firms. [redacted]

STAT [redacted] However, he said what he wanted was enough of a picture to politely explain to the station owner that the operation was a good deal more complex than one might think: what were the elements that made it costly? (I pointed out that RFE in effect operated five different stations, with distinctive content for their individual target areas and separate editorial and announcing staffs, etc., while RL operated not only in Russian but for short periods each in a large variety of regional languages... STAT that against his constituent's one or two or three transmitters

[redacted]

STAT [redacted] I suggested we send him these and possibly some others, as well as our brochure and

fact sheet.) Coleman said this would be excellent, and all he would need, and was grateful for our assistance.

The material should go to:

Carl Coleman
506 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D. C.
20515

Although he didn't mention RL, I did a couple of times in very general terms, since the Case figures were for both of us; however, he didn't suggest that I send him anything about RL or indicate that he was going to phone them.

	[Redacted]	STAT STAT
	[Redacted]	STAT

It seems to me that we might consider getting (say) a fact sheet and perhaps one good press article about RL from them, to include with our own material, since (particularly for the radio-station man) it would help explain where part of the money goes.)

Overall, I have no doubt that Coleman at least (he didn't say how his congressman felt) is really sympathetic, and concerned only with handling his constituents well and putting us in a favorable light.

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Approved For Release 2006/09/25 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000500270058-2

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