

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied



CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM, INC.

In Support of Radio Free Europe and Free Europe Press

345 EAST 46TH STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y., OXFORD 7-3939

GWILYM A. PRICE
Chairman of the Board

EUGENE HOLMAN
Chairman, Executive Committee

ARTHUR W. PAGE
President

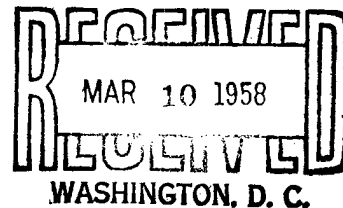
JOHN M. PATTERSON
Executive Vice President

Corporate Members

WILLIAM M. ALLEN
STANLEY C. ALLYN
ROGER M. BLOUGH
HAROLD BOESCHENSTEIN
ERNEST R. BREECH
HOWARD BRUCE
HARRY A. BULLIS
GEORGE CHAMPION
NORMAN CHANDLER
PAUL F. CLARK
L. L. COLBERT
JOHN S. COLEMAN
JAMES B. CONANT
C. R. COX
EDWARD A. DARR
MORSE G. DIAL
CHARLES H. DIEFENDORF
F. J. EMMERICH
JAMES A. FARLEY
HARVEY S. FIRESTONE, JR.
WILFRED D. GILLEN
CRAWFORD H. GREENEWALT
THOMAS J. HARGRAVE
A. J. HAYES
JOHN HOLMES
PRESTON HOTCHKIS
T. V. HOUSER
GEORGE M. HUMPHREY
CLARK HUNGERFORD
ERIC JOHNSTON
DEVEREUX C. JOSEPHS
FREDERICK R. KAPPEL
WALTER K. KOCH
AUGUSTUS C. LONG
THOMAS B. McCABE
NEIL McELROY
DONALD H. McGANNON
PAUL B. McKEE
CHARLES G. MORTIMER
HERSCHEL D. NEWSOM
FRANK PACE, JR.
T. S. PETERSEN
MRS. R. I. C. PROUT
SAMUEL F. PRYOR, JR.
DAVID SARNOFF
WALTER BEDELL SMITH
KENNETH A. SPENCER
HERMAN W. STEINKRAUS
CHARLES A. THOMAS
THOMAS J. WATSON, JR.
EDWIN L. WEISL
CHARLES M. WHITE
WILLIAM K. WHITEFORD
BRAYTON WILBUR
ROBERT E. WILSON
R. W. WOODRUFF
BEN H. WOOTEN
HENRY M. WRISTON
J. D. ZELLERBACH

February 21, 1958

Mr. Frank C. McLearn
General Manager
King Features Syndicate
235 East 45th Street
New York, N. Y.



Dear Mr. McLearn:

On October 2, 1957, Fulton Lewis, Jr. began a series of articles in his syndicated King Features column critical of Radio Free Europe, its parent organization -- Free Europe Committee -- and the Crusade for Freedom -- the organization through which the American people make their voluntary contributions in financial support of Radio Free Europe.

In all, 23 articles have appeared so far, to the best of my knowledge, the last on February 18.

Neither the Crusade for Freedom nor Radio Free Europe intends to be drawn into a public debate with Mr. Lewis. In the opinion of the Board of Directors of both organizations, such public wrangling could in no way contribute to the fight against Communism. Mr. Lewis has been told this by me.

Many hundreds of thousands of good American citizens all over the country are giving their time and money to voluntary support of the Crusade for Freedom. Some of them have written us, very much puzzled by Mr. Lewis' statements. They are entitled to an answer, and Willis D. Crittenberger, President of Free Europe Committee is sending the attached memorandum to members of Crusade for Freedom and to contributors to Radio Free Europe. He is also sending a copy of the memorandum to Mr. Lewis.

I am sending copies of this letter to the editors of newspapers carrying Mr. Lewis' column.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur W. Page
Arthur W. Page

Board of Directors

WILLIS D. CRITTENBERGER HARLOW H. CURTICE BENJAMIN F. FAIRLESS
LESTON P. FANEUF EUGENE HOLMAN ROY LARSEN CECIL MORGAN EARL NEWSOM

ARTHUR W. PAGE GWILYM A. PRICE HOWARD C. SHEPARD FRANK STANTON



CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM, INC.

In Support of Radio Free Europe and Free Europe Press

345 EAST 46TH STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y., OXFORD 7-3939

- GWILYM A. PRICE
Chairman of the Board
- EUGENE HOLMAN
Chairman, Executive Committee
- ARTHUR W. PAGE
President
- JOHN M. PATTERSON
Executive Vice President

Corporate Members

- WILLIAM M. ALLEN
- STANLEY C. ALLYN
- ROGER M. BLOUGH
- HAROLD BOESCHENSTEIN
- ERNEST R. BREECH
- HOWARD BRUCE
- HARRY A. BULLIS
- GEORGE CHAMPION
- NORMAN CHANDLER
- PAUL F. CLARK
- L. L. COLBERT
- JOHN S. COLEMAN
- JAMES B. CONANT
- C. R. COX
- EDWARD A. DARR
- MORSE G. DIAL
- CHARLES H. DIEFENDORF
- F. J. EMMERICH
- JAMES A. FARLEY
- HARVEY S. FIRESTONE, JR.
- WILFRED D. GILLEN
- CRAWFORD H. GREENEWALT
- THOMAS J. HARGRAVE
- A. J. HAYES
- JOHN HOLMES
- PRESTON HOTCHKIS
- T. V. HOUSER
- GEORGE M. HUMPHREY
- CLARK HUNGERFORD
- ERIC JOHNSTON
- DEVEREUX C. JOSEPHS
- FREDERICK R. KAPPEL
- WALTER K. KOCH
- AUGUSTUS C. LONG
- THOMAS B. McCABE
- NEIL McELROY
- DONALD H. McGANNON
- PAUL B. McKEE
- CHARLES G. MORTIMER
- HERSCHEL D. NEWSOM
- FRANK PACE, JR.
- T. S. PETERSEN
- MRS. R. I. C. PROUT
- SAMUEL F. PRYOR, JR.
- DAVID SARNOFF
- WALTER BEDELL SMITH
- KENNETH A. SPENCER
- HERMAN W. STEINKRAUS
- CHARLES A. THOMAS
- THOMAS J. WATSON, JR.
- EDWIN L. WEISL
- CHARLES M. WHITE
- WILLIAM K. WHITEFORD
- BRAYTON WILBUR
- ROBERT E. WILSON
- R. W. WOODRUFF
- BEN H. WOOTEN
- HENRY M. WRISTON
- J. D. ZELLEBRACH

February 21, 1958

Mr. Paul Roberts, President
Mutual Broadcasting System, Inc.
1440 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

On October 31, 1957, Fulton Lewis, Jr., began to use his evening radio broadcasts over the Mutual Network to attack Radio Free Europe, its parent organization, Free Europe Committee, and the Crusade for Freedom -- the organization through which the American people make their voluntary contributions in financial support of Radio Free Europe. Since then, he has devoted over forty broadcasts to this subject, up to and including February 20th.

Neither the Crusade for Freedom nor Radio Free Europe intends to be drawn into a public debate with Mr. Lewis. In the opinion of the Board of Directors of both organizations, such public wrangling could in no way contribute to the fight against Communism. Mr. Lewis has been told this by me.

Many hundreds of thousands of good American citizens all over the country are giving their time and money to voluntary support of the Crusade for Freedom. Some of them have written us, very much puzzled by Mr. Lewis' statements. They are entitled to an answer, and Willis D. Crittenger, President of Free Europe Committee, is sending the attached memorandum to members of Crusade for Freedom and to contributors to Radio Free Europe. He is also sending a copy of the memorandum to Mr. Lewis.

May I request that you send copies of this letter and the fact sheet to the managers of all of your stations carrying Mr. Lewis' broadcasts. If you will let my office know how many you need, I will send them to you at once.

Sincerely yours,
Arthur W. Page
Arthur W. Page

- Board of Directors*
- WILLIS D. CRITTENBERGER
 - HARLOW H. CURTICE
 - BENJAMIN F. FAIRLESS
 - LESTON P. FANEUF
 - EUGENE HOLMAN
 - ROY LARSEN
 - CECIL MORGAN
 - EARL NEWSOM
 - ARTHUR W. PAGE
 - GWILYM A. PRICE
 - HOWARD C. SHEPHERD
 - FRANK STANTON

Free Europe Committee, Inc.

TWO PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

TELEPHONE: LExington 2-8902

CABLE ADDRESS: NATFECOMM

February 19, 1958

MEMORANDUM

to

Members of Crusade for Freedom

and

Contributors to Free Europe Committee, Inc.

On October 2, 1957, Fulton Lewis, Jr. began a series of articles in his syndicated King Features column critical of Free Europe Committee, Inc., parent organization of Radio Free Europe, and critical of the Crusade for Freedom -- the organization through which the American people make their voluntary contributions in financial support of Free Europe Committee, Inc. In all, twenty-three articles have appeared so far, the last on February 18, 1958.

On October 31, 1957, Mr. Lewis began to use his evening radio broadcast over the Mutual Network for the same purpose. Since then he has devoted time to expanding his criticism in forty-three broadcasts, up to and including February 18, 1958.

Neither the Crusade for Freedom nor Free Europe Committee, Inc. intends to be drawn into public debate with Mr. Lewis. In the opinion of the Board of Directors of both organizations, such public debate could in no way contribute to the fight against Communism. Mr. Lewis has been told this by the President of Crusade for Freedom.

All of the many good American citizens who are giving their time and money in voluntary support of Crusade for Freedom are entitled to know what Mr. Lewis has been saying, and to compare these statements with the facts. That is the purpose of this memorandum. The major charges made in sixty-six separate articles and broadcasts have been grouped into ten categories.

- 2 -

I.

Mr. Lewis Says:

" . . . Radio Free Europe is playing the propaganda line that the way to freedom is to adopt Tito-Communism . . ."
-- Column, Oct. 29

" . . . the very objection to RFE is that its propaganda line is to wean the people behind the Iron Curtain away from Moscow Communism by persuading them to establish their own national brand of Communism . . ."
-- Column, Nov. 19

" . . . And yet let me read to you from a directive which Radio Free Europe distributed to its employees and editors and broadcasters and writers in the Munich headquarters . . . 'Titoism in Yugoslavia has proven itself, and is defending the country against Stalinist Bolshevism . . . It is necessary to glorify the figure of Marshal Tito in the eyes of Yugoslavia and the Western World . . . Tito is a hero who has saved the nation from exploitation from foreign barbarians. . . .'
-- Broadcast, Nov. 5

Here Are The Facts:

Radio Free Europe does not promote Tito, Titoism, "National Communism" or socialism.

The document which Mr. Lewis identifies as a Radio Free Europe directive was never issued by Radio Free Europe or any other division of the Free Europe Committee. At no time did any such document serve as the basis for any approved policy whatsoever.

Policies governing the broadcasts of Radio Free Europe are fully consistent with the United States policy objective toward eastern and central Europe. Periodic consultations with the Department of State are undertaken to insure such consistency.

Tape recordings of all broadcasts are kept available for review on request of the United States government or the West German government, since broadcasts originate in that country.

Radio Free Europe's mission remains unchanged since its first broadcast in 1950: to contribute to the eventual achievement of full, enduring freedom and independence for the Soviet enslaved peoples of eastern and central Europe.

- 3 -

II.

Mr. Lewis Says:

" . . . (RFE) editors, broadcasters, writers, propagandists . . . turned coat to the Communist government in Prague." He names the following: "Ladislav Zapletal, script writer." "Karel Molin, chief of the RFE Citizen-Service Department in Salzburg." "Marie Dvorakova, expert linguist who served as liaison between American administrative personnel and foreign language employees." "Karel Folta, worker on the editorial desk, preparing skits and scripts for the Youth Hour. . ." "Oldrich Kucera, alias Hornik, who was editor in charge of the 'Workers' Program. . ." "Jira Kalas was administrative assistant to the head of the Refugee Department at RFE in Munich and interrogated witnesses at the Valka-Nuremberg camp."

-- Column, Oct. 6

Here Are The Facts:

The exiles named can be identified as follows:

<u>Zapletal</u>	This man was never an employee of Free Europe Committee, any of its operating divisions or associated activities.
<u>Molin</u>	A search of the records does not disclose that he was ever employed by RFE.
<u>Dvorakova</u>	A typist in a typing pool. She returned to Czechoslovakia after resigning from RFE.
<u>Folta</u>	A young actor employed by RFE from November 1951 to October 1952. He was fifteen years old. Subsequently he worked as an actor on a free-lance basis until 1955. He returned to Czechoslovakia at the age of nineteen because of homesickness.
<u>Kucera</u>	A refugee who was interviewed by RFE on life in Czechoslovakia and paid for his interviews. He disappeared mysteriously in 1955. Shortly before this he asked RFE to tape record a statement disavowing anything he might say in the future concerning RFE and his life in West Germany. Later he was heard over Radio Prague making propaganda broadcasts. When RFE played his recorded statement on the air, these broadcasts stopped.

- 4 -

Kalas Once a free-lance "stringer" for RFE living at Camp Valka. He was not an editor, writer, broadcaster or propagandist. He returned to Czechoslovakia in April, 1956.

Anyone who returns to a Communist country is featured by the Communist regime in a deliberate effort to persuade people that among other things, the West is weak, urges nuclear warfare, and is oblivious to the fate of people in Eastern Europe. RFE is often the object of such attacks.

III.

Mr. Lewis Says:

" . . . The charges that have been made against Mr. Peroutka (Ferdinand Peroutka, chief of RFE's Czechoslovakian desk) are that he was a collaborator with the Communists before he left Prague to become an exile and that his line of approach in his propaganda work since that time has been to advocate national Communism in Czechoslovakia as against Moscow-controlled Communism. . ."

-- Broadcast, Dec. 23

Here Are The Facts:

Peroutka, an editor and writer, is the Radio Free Europe employee most consistently attacked by the Communist Czechoslovak radio and press. In Czechoslovak Communist media available to the Free Europe Committee, Mr. Peroutka was attacked 59 times in 1956 and 71 times in 1957. His broadcasts have never advocated a "Titoist" or "national Communist" policy.

IV.

Mr. Lewis Says:

"There is a chief of the economic section of the Czechoslovak broadcast desk of RFE who decides economic policy. . . He is Milos Vadek, described by the exile newspaper, Slovak, as being one of the most important officials of the entire Munich operation. And who is Milos Vadek? . . . Milos Vadek was one of the original signers, along with Lenin, Trotsky, Zapotocki and Rakosi, one of the original signers, along with these, of the second Comintern Manifesto of 1921. One of the authentic originals. In fact, he is the only one of them still alive."

-- Broadcast, Jan. 14

- 5 -

Here Are The Facts:

Vanek (not Vadek) was a Communist at that time and did sign that Manifesto. However, he left the Communist Party in the mid-twenties and has been anti-Communist for over thirty years. Rakosi, incidentally, is believed to be alive and living in Russia.

(The Free Europe Committee employs qualified security officers who have previously served with the F. B. I., Naval Intelligence or the Army Counter Intelligence Corps. Each employee of Free Europe Committee is carefully screened and thoroughly checked.)

V.

Mr. Lewis Says:

"The fact is, there is no reason to believe that the Free Europe broadcasts are being heard behind the Iron Curtain to any appreciable extent. Their transmitters are all short-wave, and short-wave receivers in Satellite countries are very scarce. The only radio sets available for purchase are standard 'People's Sets,' capable of picking up the frequencies of the Communist government stations on the regular broadcast band. These are useless for short-wave."

-- Column, Nov. 19

Here Are The Facts:

1. RFE transmitters are not all short-wave. RFE has a powerful medium-wave transmitter that has been on the air since 1951.
2. Short-wave receivers are not scarce behind the Iron Curtain. The Soviet Union itself uses short-wave frequencies in much of its broadcasting to Satellite countries. Analysis of refugee interrogation, reports of visitors to the Satellites, discussions with American and other officials in those countries, statistics issued in the target countries, and other pertinent information indicate the following:

The number of radio sets in Radio Free Europe's target countries increased during 1957 and is estimated as follows:
Poland - 2,416,000; Hungary - 1,936,000;
Czechoslovakia - 3,000,000; Rumania - 600,000;
Bulgaria - 457,000.

- 6 -

The percentages of these radio sets with short-wave bands are estimated to be:
 Poland - 82%; Hungary - 90%; Czechoslovakia - 49%; Rumania - 76%; and Bulgaria - 35%.

VI.

Mr. Lewis Says:

"One routine defense, for example, is that Radio Free Europe broadcasts must be effective or the Russians would not be spending millions of dollars a year in efforts to 'jam' them. On the first glance, this seems reasonable. On second, it is hogwash. In the first place, there is no evidence that the Russians are spending 'millions of dollars' to that end and no possible way to prove it. . ."

-- Column, Nov. 19

Here Are The Facts:

There is plenty of evidence that Radio Free Europe's signal is heard in all of its target countries despite Soviet bloc jamming, and that the Soviet bloc spends millions of dollars to jam Radio Free Europe and other Western broadcasts.

The Polish press has stated that they saved about 80 million zlotys (about \$20,000,000) a year through cessation of jamming of Western broadcasts. (Jamming of Radio Free Europe's broadcasts to Poland continues from other Satellite states and from Russia.)

With the exception of Poland, there is no indication that the jamming has significantly lessened anywhere in the orbit.

The ease with which RFE may be received depends on the country, the transmitter, the time and the location of the receiver in city or rural region.

It is significant that the Communist press and radio attack Radio Free Europe often. During the past three and a half years, there have been over five thousand Communist radio and press attacks against Radio Free Europe and the Free Europe Committee from within the five Satellite countries. Communist officials send formal notes of protest to American embassies behind the Iron Curtain concerning the operations of the Free Europe Committee. The Soviet Union and its Satellites have conducted an anti-Free Europe Committee campaign on the floor of the United Nations, a valid testimony to the effectiveness of Radio Free Europe.

- 7 -

VII.

Mr. Lewis Says:

" . . . you probably have no firsthand experience in the management of a radio station . . . you probably have seen one of the local radio stations in your community. You probably do have a reasonable idea of how many people work there. I know of some radio stations that are operated by a husband and wife alone, though ordinarily the staff, of course, would be something larger than that. . . Now, do you know how many are really employed there at Munich and in Lisbon, drawing salaries that are paid for out of the contributions that are coaxed from you? . . . Well the answer is more than 2,000."

-- Broadcast, Dec. 19

Here Are The Facts:

The comparison between Radio Free Europe and a local American radio station operated by a handful of people is completely unrealistic.

1. RFE operates five networks requiring facilities in New York, Munich, Holzkirchen, Biblis and Schleissheim in Germany; Gloria, Maxoqueira and Lisbon, Portugal. There are 29 transmitters on the air more than 2,600 hours a week.
2. RFE broadcasts in six foreign languages -- Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Rumanian and Bulgarian.
3. RFE has ten news and information bureaus throughout Europe gathering information on the Satellites from refugees and other sources.
4. RFE monitors sixty Communist radio stations and news agencies behind the Iron Curtain and analyzes hundreds of newspapers and publications obtained from the Soviet bloc.
5. In addition to announcers, news writers and producers, RFE must employ translators, researchers, audience analysts and political specialists, together with engineers, a large technical staff, security officers and guards.

- 8 -

VIII.

Mr. Lewis Says:

" . . . (Nine) members of the Munich staff were involved in a cigarette black market scandal. . . Free Europe headquarters in New York dispatched its own general counsel, Richard Greenlee, from New York to defend the nine, his trip costing 'several thousand dollars.' There was also a German attorney. All nine were convicted and fined by the German court. . ."

-- Column, Nov. 20

Here Are The Facts:

It is regrettable that nine employees of Free Europe Press were guilty of illegalities in connection with custom payments due on cigarettes in Germany. As soon as the case was settled with the German customs authorities, all nine of the employees were relieved of their duties in Germany. Six were terminated and the other three brought back to the United States for reassignment. Mr. Greenlee went to Munich to protect the interest of the Free Europe Committee. The defendants hired and paid for their own counsel and also paid their own fines.

IX.

Mr. Lewis Says:

" . . . They (Crusade for Freedom) will not, however, make any public accounting of their funds whatsoever. They do not issue any balance sheet, they do not provide even the most skeletal financial statements, they will not tell you how the money is being used or what it is being spent for, or even how much they take in. They won't even give any figures on how much money they supply to Radio Free Europe to finance that operation. . . Even the Fund for the Republic makes an annual financial report -- but not the Crusade for Freedom . . ."

-- Broadcast, Dec. 18

Here Are The Facts:

The books of the Crusade for Freedom and Free Europe Committee are audited annually by a nationally known firm of certified public accountants, which provides to the management of these organizations statements confirming that all monies received have been properly accounted for in accordance with sound business practices. Their reports are scrutinized by the respective boards of directors, all men of the highest probity. In their judgment the publication of financial details would greatly benefit the Communists.

- 9 -

X.

Mr. Lewis Says:

"Fletcher Bartholomew, meteorologist for the Free Europe balloon operation in Munich. . . was lured into the Army hospital in Munich on Saturday, July 28, 1956. . . He was held in the hospital, heavily drugged and under 24-hour guard, until Thursday, August 2, and then shipped home under the most distressing circumstances imaginable. . . The Army's only excuse is that the Consul General, . . . 'said he had some trouble on his hands and asked us to help.' The Consul General didn't have any authority (to do so). . ."

-- Column, Feb. 10

Here Are The Facts:

On July 27, 1956 the American Consul General, after discussion with Mr. Bartholomew and after the request of Free Europe Committee, recommended to the appropriate military authorities that Mr. Bartholomew be given a medical examination. This was arranged through a United States Army Catholic chaplain known to Mr. Bartholomew. Competent Army medical authorities diagnosed an illness which in their opinion required evacuation of Mr. Bartholomew to the United States. This was done in the interests of Mr. Bartholomew himself, the United States Government and Free Europe Committee.