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RFE Aide Sidesteps Query on CIA Link

A report that the Central Intelligence Agency is provided with "cover" by Radio Free Europe (RFE) drew no firm denial from a top executive of the latter group who spoke here yesterday.

Albert D. Kappel, executive vice president of the radio organization, was in town for a fund-raising luncheon at the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel.

Asked about the New York Times report of a connection between the CIA and the RFE, he read a carefully-worded prepared statement saying: "RFE is a private organization, privately financed and privately operated and does not receive financial aid from the U.S. government."

The Times report said: "Radio Free Europe and

Radio Liberty provide cover for CIA-financed organizations that draw upon the research talents of American scholars and also service scholars with invaluable raw material. The Free Europe Committee even advertises for public contributions without revealing its ties to the United States government."

The question was raised at the luncheon by John Henderson, an attorney with the pension trust of Textron, Inc. He said someone had suggested he ask the question but did not say who he was.

Mr. Kappel said it is true that RFE provides scholars with invaluable raw material, but said the propaganda agency is "neither an organization nor an arm of the U.S. government."

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