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JAMMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ohm 7812

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Control: 7605
Rec'd: JULY 13, 1956
3:54 P.M.

FROM: LONDON
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 233, JULY 13, 6 P.M.
DEPTEL 7862

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FONOFF POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF WHY SOVIETS STOPPED JAMMING BBC RUSSIAN LANGUAGE SERVICES DEVELOPS FOUR LIKELY REASONS:

1. SOVIET GESTURE TO SHOW THEMSELVES IN EARNEST OVER INCREASING CONTACTS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN USSR-UK.
2. BBC RUSSIAN BROADCASTS ON WHOLE RESTRAINED IN TONE AND NOW RUSSIANS REPORTING WORLD NEWS MORE FREELY HAVE LESS TO FEAR FROM PENETRATION TRUTHFUL WESTERN NEWS BROADCASTS. THEREFORE FELT COULD AFFORD TO MAKE GESTURE.
3. MERELY RECIPROCITY SINCE UK NEVER JAMMED THEM.
4. ANXIOUS TO FORGE CLOSER LINKS WITH BBC ORDER GET SOVIET MATERIAL USED ON BBC DOMESTIC SERVICES. THIS EMERGED CLEARLY FROM RECENT BBC VISIT TO USSR.

*1-5RS/001
1-ORR
1-OS/E
T-LD/S
T-OC
T-FAD*

FONOFF FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO ^{USS}ACCESS FUTURE TRENDS. POINTED OUT SOVIETS ATTEMPTED GET UK RECOGNIZE PRINCIPLE OF JAMMING BY OFFERING BBC DELEGATION HALF-HOUR DAILY FREE OF JAMMING. THIS BBC RESISTED (AT PRESENT BROADCAST TWO HOURS DAILY IN RUSSIAN) BUT BBC AS GESTURE HAD ALREADY REDUCED NUMBER OF FREQUENCIES ON RUSSIAN TRANSMISSIONS. TAKING CARE TO RETAIN THOSE WHICH GETTING THROUGH WITH LEAST INTERFERENCE. POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING PROGRAM TIMES TO MORE SUITABLE HOURS ON ASSUMPTION JAMMING WILL NOT BE RESUMED NOW UNDER DISCUSSION.

FONOFF SAYS FURTHER POINTER TO TENDENCY TO CUT DOWN ON

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2- 233, JULY 13, 6 P.M., FROM LONDON

JAMMING HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY POLAND WHERE HINTS BEEN
BROWN OUT, FOLLOWING JUNE VISIT BY BBC CENTRAL EUROPEAN
CHIEF, THAT IF BBC WOULD MODIFY TONE ITS POLISH BROAD-
CASTS, POLES WOULD REDUCE JAMMING. BBC OFFICIAL GAVE
NO SUCH UNDERTAKING TO POLES BUT BRITISH EMBASSY WARSAW
HAS REPORTED THAT MORNING AND AFTERNOON TRANSMISSIONS
COMING THROUGH RATHER MORE CLEARLY AT PRESENT ALTHOUGH
LATER ONES ARE JAMMED AS HEAVILY AS EVER. THIS RELAXA-
TION FIRST NOTICED JUNE 27 BUT SINCE POZNAN DISTURBANCES
OCCURRED JUNE 28, FONOFF BELIEVES THIS MAY WELL HAVE
SCARED POLISH REGIME OFF MAKING ANY FURTHER REDUCTION
AND VIEW HELD BY BBC AT PRESENT IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN
NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.

FONOFF CONCLUDES THAT IT DOES LOOK HOWEVER AS IF THE
CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY GIVEN IN WEST TO QUESTION OF
JAMMING HAS HAD SOME EFFECT. FONOFF STATES ITS INTENTION
TO CONTINUE STAND FOUR SQUARE AGAINST PRINCIPLE OF
SYSTEMATIC JAMMING.

ON PRESENT EXTENT OF JAMMING FONOFF STATES SO FAR AS
CAN BE ASCERTAINED BY OBSERVATIONS HERE AND FROM MOSCOW
THERE IS NOW NO DELIBERATE JAMMING OF BBC RUSSIAN SERVICE
FROM WITHIN SOVIET UNION JAMMING FROM RUSSIA OF BBC
BROADCASTS TO SATELLITES, AND IN LANGUAGES OF OTHER
COUNTRIES ON PERIMETER OF SOVIET UNION, SUCH AS FINNISH,
HEBREW, TURKISH AND PERSIAN HAS ALSO VIRTUALLY CEASED.

SATELLITE JAMMERS ARE STILL OPERATING ON BBC AT FULL
STRENGTH, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF POLAND, AND THERE
HAVE BEEN REPORTS FROM BRITISH MISSIONS IN BUDAPEST
AND BUCHARESO THAT NEW JAMMERS HAVE RECENTLY COME INTO
OPERATION IN THOSE AREAS.

FONOFF POINTS OUT THERE IS STILL SO MUCH JAMMING ON THE
ETHER THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO BE TOO CATEGORICAL
ABOUT WHAT IS OR IS NOT DELIBERATE JAMMING AND INTER-
FERENCE IS STILL NOTICEABLE ON SOME FREQUENCIES OF BBC
RUSSIAN SERVICE BUT BBC BELIEVES THIS IS DUE TO SPREAD
OVER FROM ADJACENT JAMMED FREQUENCIES USED BY OTHER
SERVICES OR TO THE ODD JAMMER NOT BEING QUITE SURE
WHAT IT IS COVERING.

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0 233. JULY 13, 6 P.M., FROM LONDON

FONOFF VIEWS, IN GENERAL, SHOW CLOSE PARALLEL WITH
INFORMATION PROVIDED PAO BY BBC OFFICIALS. FONOFF CON-
SULTED POST OFFICE RE ABOVE.

DESPATCH FOLLOWS TRANSMITTING FONOFF INFORMAL NOTE IN
FULL.

ALDRICH

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Chief Mediterranean Bureau, FBIS

17 July 1956

Acting Chief, FBIS

New BBC Transmitter in Middle East Area

REFERENCE:

[Redacted]

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1. [Redacted] of BBC has informed us that BBC is conducting an engineering survey in the Middle East, including Cyprus, for the purpose of establishing a transmitter in the area. Final selection of the site will be dependent on the result of the survey. If Cyprus is selected as the site, [Redacted] feels that the transmitter should cause no greater interference to our monitoring than that caused by existing installations.

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2. BBC has promised to keep us informed on this subject and, of course, we shall pass on to you any further details we receive. These activities are at present confidential and our injunction to refrain from any approach to local contacts still applies.

BBC

[Redacted]

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