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C O P Y

May 7, 1958

PERSONAL

Dear Jerry:

I phoned you on April 24 regarding the State Department's interest in Congressional action at this session on amendments to the Federal Communications Act. You said that you had this matter under active consideration but that prospects did not appear too encouraging.

I thought you would want to know that this matter is becoming somewhat acute in our relations with the new United Arab Republic. Our Ambassador in Cairo has been approached by a senior Egyptian official who indicated that the Arab Republic wishes to establish a two-way radio station between New York and Cairo and who implied strongly that if their request was not granted they would have to ask us to close down the transmitter we are operating in Cairo. We are deeply concerned that this might happen in Cairo and that other countries in the area might also ask us to close down our transmitters. A crack-down like this would probably curtail seriously the flow of our communications to and from the field, since we would then have to rely on inadequate and undependable commercial services with the resultant delays, inaccuracies and greatly increased costs.

Israel and Sudan have also requested permission to establish radio transmitting facilities in this country. The Turkish Government is also concerned with this problem.

As you can see, amendment of the Communications Act is of urgent importance to us. I know that the problems you are facing up on the Hill are tremendous, but I hope that something helpful can be done on this one, if at all possible.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert Murphy

General Wilton B. Persons,
Deputy Assistant to the President,
The White House.