

2 July 52

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James Day

Sub

Criticism of RFA Broadcasts

DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
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CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: MR 70-2
DATE: _____ REVIEWER []

[] We have studied carefully the criticisms of []
[] Taking the criticisms in the order in which he
presented them, we would suggest the following considera-
tions:

1. Our criticism of Madame Sun was based on the conviction held by all of our senior Chinese that Madame Sun is a traitor to her husband's cause and that no hope exists that she will ever again turn toward the West. If information exists to the contrary, it has not been made available to us. To avoid future criticisms of this nature, we are taking steps to furnish the names of persons to be criticized in "The People's Letter" for review by persons in authority before the script is written.

(5)

2. The question of the vulgarity of our attack upon the person of Kuo-Mojo is debatable. If we have learned nothing else in RFA, we have learned that one cannot judge Chinese standards of humor by our own American standards. Persons on our staff -- both American and Chinese -- defend the style of this program. Only last week we received an evaluation from Mr. F. Chang of the Asian Operations Department of our most recent "People's Letter" in which he said "Well presented and written in a polished style. This writer has a good command of the Chinese language."

(1)

3. We differ with [] about the advisability of RFA speaking "for the Chinese people." We feel there is validity in building identification with the Asian scene and that the use of "our fellow countrymen abroad" and "we Chinese" are useful means toward that end. We are, however, going to use more care in implying that "The People's Letter" is actually a series of "letters from the Chinese people of China."

(6)

4. The criticism that the use of the phrase "bogus Mayor" is nationalist practice is also debatable. Whenever we use a Communist term, it is normally preceded by the modifier "so-called." "Bogus" is a variant of the same form. In

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view of the fact that the script in question was written by one of our Chinese who is without strong Nationalist sentiments, I doubt that the phrase in question would give an indication in its original Chinese of identification with the Formosa radio. [] raises the question of the similarity in title between "RFA" and "The Voice of Free China." If there is danger of confusion with the Kuomintang, there is even greater danger of confusion with the Communists and their new spokesman "Radio Free Japan."

7. 5. Our present policy is in accordance with the phraseology used in the Overseas Chinese Commentary No. 88, which [] appears to approve.

5. 6. The assumption that "RFA broadcasts are not listened to" and "are thought by Asians to be much too far on the vulgar and scurrilous side" is hardly scientific in view of the fact that the conclusions are drawn on the basis of interviews with a few "informants" who have arrived from the Far East. RFA is in possession of information from "informants" that is contrary. *Correct copy.*

We heartily agree to the advisability of field evaluations by our representatives and look forward to their reports. In the meantime, it is a simple matter of our information against theirs. We would again remind our critic that Americans are hardly qualified to judge the vulgarity of Chinese-language programs.

In the belief that the criticism contains some truth, we have discussed this at our meetings and have decided that more careful editing of our programs will minimize the emphasis which we have placed in our Mainland Chinese programs upon disaster, both man-made and natural. This will tend to lessen somewhat the over-all impression gained that our programs are "scurrilous." *(This editing has been completed by several months ago.)*

7. Mr. Bennett appears also to be a prejudiced witness. In mentioning that our program was directed to the Chinese worker in English, he failed to note that it was also directed to the Chinese worker in two dialects of his own language. (At the time of this criticism our English-Language Commentary was a translation of one of our Chinese commentaries. This is no longer the case.)

~~We are attaching a copy of the script in question, which we believe will show that Mr. Bennett's criticisms exaggerate the negative aspects of the program and place undue~~

