

2 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE
 VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)
 SUBJECT: Committee for a Free Asia

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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCES METHODSEXEMPTION 3B2B
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2007

Transmitted herewith is a copy of the proposed budget and operating plan of the Committee for a Free Asia for fiscal year 1953. This has been reviewed by my appropriate staff and area divisions and by representatives of the Assistant Director for Communications. Their comments are attached as Tab A.

Background

1. An earlier provisional budget of CFA was reviewed by the PRO on April 11, 1952 and the following decision reached:

"... that the CFA would be given policy guidance on this matter only after the Director's views have been ascertained. A budget of from [redacted], more modest than that proposed, was considered to be large enough for the present, and the CFA was to be advised to prepare a new budget accordingly. The construction of radio transmitting facilities was considered premature, and further exploitation of leased facilities was recommended before the construction of even a pilot station was begun. Budgetary increases might be sought and if adequately justified, approved at a later time."

2. Since that time the DDCI has discussed the matter with the DCI and agreement was reached that about [redacted] was reasonable for CFA's operating program exclusive of capital radio costs which should be considered separately after further study of the possible use of existing radio stations.

Operating Program

There are no important substantive conflicts between the operating program proposed by CFA and other CIA or State programs. The only major comment appears to be with respect to the cost of the program. It is therefore considered reasonable to instruct CFA

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to reduce their proposed operating budget of [] to [] which is in line with DCI's instructions.

Radio Program, including Capital Radio Costs

1. In line with instructions of the PRC, representatives of OPC and CFA have explored with State and elsewhere the possibility of using existing radio stations to reach the target audience in Asia.

2. A working party of OPC, State, and CFA has reached tentative conclusions indicating that C A should direct its radio efforts approximately as follows:

a. The CFA should go ahead with its present plans for internal broadcasting in Japan (9,519,500 sets) and the Philippines (160,000 sets) where it is understood that CFA can use existing stations with reasonable expectation of operational, editorial, and policy flexibility.

b. About 40% of its international radio effort should be directed toward the Chinese of which 25% should be toward the mainland Chinese where the audience is becoming progressively more uncertain and toward which the VOA will shortly be directing several hours a day from new transmitters being constructed on Okinawa and in the Philippines; and 75% toward the overseas Chinese.

c. The major balance of its international radio effort should be directed at India, Burma, and Indonesia, where Voice of America coverage is thinnest, and the need for U. S. psychological warfare is great.

3. It is the view of both OPC and the Department of State that it will not be possible for CFA to use with any reasonable expectation of editorial or policy freedom existing radio stations which can reach India, Burma, or Indonesia with a strong signal. All of the stations in Indonesia, Burma, Thailand, and India are either state-owned or under rigid state controls which would make difficult their use for the purposes intended by CFA or by its "front" national committees without considerable time-consuming negotiations, if at all.

4. Inasmuch as the overseas Chinese and other peoples located in the area extending from India through Indonesia are considered both by the Department of State and OPC to be priority targets for

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psychological warfare; and inasmuch as the U.S. psychological warfare effort needs additional emphasis in these areas, it is considered necessary to reach them by radio, as well as by other media. From figures taken from State Department publications dated October 1, 1951 there are an estimated 1,000,000 radio receivers in this area (plus an uncertain audience in China). Because of the community listening system the total number of potential listeners is estimated to be at least 5,000,000. It is logical to assume that these include the present and potential leaders of these countries, and that every effort ought to be made to influence this group by every means possible.

5. If CPA is to reach this audience by radio it appears essential to construct a new transmitter. Discussions with the Department of State indicate that the best location for such transmitter in terms of psychological impact on the southeastern Asian countries would be Burma. It is believed that the Burmese government could be persuaded under appropriate arrangements to permit the construction and use of such transmitter. Representatives of the Department of State point out that the military security of Burma is realistically not much less than that in Thailand. They point out that the psychological impact of Asians speaking from a transmitter broadcasting to the rest of Asia would be far greater from Burma than from Thailand, which latter country is considered to be a "stooge" of the West and somewhat unpopular with its neighbor countries. State representatives were enthusiastic in their support of the idea of such broadcasts from Burma.

6. This would provide for broadcasting to a potential total of 10,937,800 sets (exclusive of China) which under the system of community listening would assume an average of five listeners per receiver or a potential audience of nearly 55,000,000.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that [] be approved for the CPA program for fiscal 1953. It should be realized that the CPA budget assumes that all operations will be in existence for the full fiscal year and would entail dollar costs of [] (of which [] is for non-recurrent capital costs for opening twelve overseas offices; and [] for operating costs) as compared with the [] recommended. There is a reasonable expectation, with the normal lag in mounting the program combined with the funds which CPA will have on hand on June 30, 1952, that CPA will be in a financial position to have the full program in operation during the second half of the fiscal year.

2. It is recommended that if NSA finds itself short of funds NSA shall present the situation for review but with no assurance that the matter will be acted on favorably.

3. It is recommended that funds be approved in the amount of [] for the construction of a transmitter complex preferably located in Burma, to reach the countries ranging from India through Indonesia and such portions of south China as may be possible. That this approval be given with the understanding that final detailed plans for the construction and operation of such transmitter will be coordinated with and approved by the Department of State and the Assistant Director for Communications, CIA.

4. It is recommended that no new transmitters be approved for international broadcasts from the Philippines or from Formosa at this time.

KILBOURNE JOHNSTON
Assistant Director for
Policy Coordination

IO/C Dblj

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