

SADIAED

2426
by *Chiron*

ACTION SLIP

S/S CONTROL NUMBER

UNCL

(Attachment Classification)

250752A

ACTION ASSIGNED TO:

EA

DATE:

8/16/75

(Action Office Instructions on Reverse)

ACTION REQUESTED:

SPRINGSTEEN TO SCOWCROFT MEMO
 SPRINGSTEEN TO

with Draft reply for signature
by _____
 with Comment or Recommendation

DIRECT REPLY
 REPLY FOR SIGNATURE
BY H

provide info copy under cover
of SPRINGSTEEN to _____ Memo
 provide comeback copy
for _____

RECOMMENDATION FOR
 with Memorandum for the President

APPROPRIATE HANDLING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DOE IN S/S BY: EA

CLEAR WITH:

REMARKS/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Coordinate with USA.

Advance copy to EA 8/16 - 3:00 p.

- S
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- M
- C
- S/S
- S/S-O
- S/S-EX
- S/S-S
- TEAM A
- TEAM B
- TEAM C
- S/S-I (RF)

- S/AB
- S/AJ
- S/AM
- S/CCT
- S/CPR
- S/IG
- S/IL
- S/NM
- S/P
- S/PRS
- S/R
- S/WF
- M/DG
- D/LOS
- I/PW

- A
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- AF
- ARA
- EA
- EUR
- NLA
- ACDA
- AID
- USA

FROM: *[Signature]* (Blank)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

750752A

April 10, 1975

37 S
ACTION
is assigned to
EVR

The Honorable Henry Kissinger
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to inquire about reports that the Voice of America, on your instructions, has recently begun censoring and suppressing news of events in Southeast Asia.

Information has come to my attention, both in the public press and in private reports from employees of VOA, that VOA has suppressed comments by at least two U.S. Senators on the situation in Vietnam and has delayed reporting actual events in Vietnam, such as the fall of Da Nang, long after this news was reported by other news media in countries around the world.

I fully appreciate the need for Voice of America, as an official source of information from our government, to exercise caution in the reporting of news. But, if the information I have received is true, VOA has now gone far beyond the need for caution and is suppressing and censoring news to an extent that has seriously damaged its credibility as a news outlet.

Is it true, Mr. Secretary, that on your instructions, U.S. Information Agency Director James Keogh recently ordered VOA to carefully screen all news items pertaining to Southeast Asia, withholding some information and delaying dissemination of other information?

As I understand it, the purpose of VOA is to provide factual information to people whose own governments censor news heavily. Is this no longer the case? If not, what is its purpose considered to be?

I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Beatsen

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 10, 1975

Mr. James Keogh
Director
United States Information Agency
1776 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20547

Dear Mr. Keogh:

I am writing to inquire about reports that the Voice of America, on instructions from Secretary of State Kissinger, has recently begun censoring and suppressing news of events in Southeast Asia.

Information has come to my attention, both in the public press and in private reports from employees of VOA, that VOA has suppressed comments by at least two U.S. Senators on the situation in Vietnam and has delayed reporting actual events in Vietnam, such as the fall of Da Nang, long after this news was reported by other news media in countries around the world.

I fully appreciate the need for Voice of America, as an official source of information from our government, to exercise caution in the reporting of news. But, if the information I have received is true, VOA has now gone far beyond the need for caution and is suppressing and censoring news to an extent that has seriously damaged its credibility as a news outlet.

Is it true, Mr. Keogh, that you recently ordered VOA Division Chiefs to review news reports cleared for publication by VOA editors? If so, were these orders given on your own authority or on instructions from the Secretary of State?

What is the purpose of these reviews? Have they resulted in the suppression of comments by U.S. Senators or other officials of government? If so, what is the basis for deciding which news items are to be suppressed?

Mr. James Keogh
April 10, 1975
Page 2

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Lloyd Bentsen