

June 10, 1954

**Memorandum for Mr. Lampton Berry from Thomas
W. Braden [Approved for Release March 2009]**

Citation:

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<https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/114482>

Summary:

CIA official Thomas Braden assures the State Department that RFE broadcasts which took sides in Czechoslovak factory council elections have ended. (The cited FEC document is available in the Hoover Archives as FEC teletype NYC 29, June 8, 1954.)

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10 June 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. LAMPTON BERRY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUBJECT:

1. The matter of revising the controversial has now been completed in accordance with our agreement. We regret that this has taken so long and particularly that the controversy may have caused you some embarrassment with other officers in the Department, since you have taken such an affirmative and friendly position toward providing rapid policy support for F.R.C. operations. As you indicate in your letter of May 12th, our two offices have had a completely co-operative and most successful relationship. And I want to keep it that way.

2. As you know, is a major operation involving many people here and abroad which makes policy control a complex matter. Speaking perfectly frankly, it should be said that our people felt that the policy agreed to at the meeting in the Department was subject to greater flexibility than the formal decision that you passed on to us in your original memorandum. They still do feel that it would be desirable to take a less rigid position in anticipation of the Shop Committee elections next autumn. However, they have eaten humble pie and dispatched the following very firm telegram which was prepared by my staff with the assistance of

"After review with appropriate officials radically revised to insure no, repeat no possibility of misunderstanding regarding future policy even though have been postponed until next autumn.

workers who have the opportunity to elect an important number of anti-regime candidates should be free to do so voluntarily and spontaneously. If RFE were to suggest that workers elect trusted anti-Communist, individuals selected or elected might immediately be removed from potential key positions by the Communist regime.

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BOX 15 FOLDER 6

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3. Undoubtedly, it will be mutually advantageous to have further talks on [redacted] but as far as [redacted] is concerned, unless we desire to make further changes, I think we can consider this particular subject closed. I appreciate your constructive criticism, patience and the cooperation of your staff in working out this problem.

(signed) THOMAS W. BRADEN

THOMAS W. BRADEN

IO/AMC/dm
Addressee - orig and 1
C/IO - 2
RI - 1
IO/ Br 1 - 2 cc

cc [redacted]

~~SECRET~~