

February 28, 1957

Policy Guidance for Radio Broadcasting to Hungary

Citation:

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Summary:

Robert Murphy and Allen Dulles agree that Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America should treat the March 15 anniversary of Hungarian Independence Day with caution.

Credits:

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English

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Original Scan

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DATE: NOV 2006EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

28 February 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chiefs, All Area Divisions
Chief, IO Division

SUBJECT : March 15 Hungarian Independence Day

1. March 15 is Hungarian Independence Day the anniversary of the famous poem of Sandor Petoeft written in 1848 when the Hungarians under Kossuth won independence from Austria. The Kadar regime is taking extraordinary measures to ensure that no major uprising takes place in Hungary on this date. It is rumored that 12,000 anti-regime youths may be arrested for a period of a month to curtail possible unrest. We do not anticipate that there will be another revolution in Hungary starting on March 15. There will be large demonstrations permitted by the regime and it is possible that some of these may get out of hand and that there may be some shooting and loss of life.

2. Our guidance from the Department of State calls for extreme care by all media directed to Hungary. We are asked to play down March 15 saying nothing which would in any way give the impression that the West may directly or indirectly give support to armed uprising. On the other hand our media should not appear to give advice asking the people to avoid bloodshed or suggesting that they not engage in anti-regime demonstrations.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] this is true because the Hungarian people unlike the Poles have very little to lose.

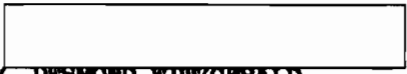
3. [REDACTED]

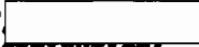

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4. Since we are asked to play down this event in media directed at Hungary it is important that such media observe considerable caution in reporting the activities outlined above which may occur in the free world. This is a difficult balance to strike because it is important for the people of Hungary to know that they are not forgotten and that the eyes of the world continue to be focused on them. Therefore, it is recommended that media play the story of free world activities on March 15 as straight news without emotion and without inference that these demonstrations and other activities imply any possibility of outside assistance for the Hungarian people.


for DESMOND FITZGERALD
Chief
Psychological and Paramilitary Staff

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

REC'D

FWD'D

FEB 1957

✓

DCI and Murphy
agreed on 2 March to
this.

RFE can play in
advance only to extent
of mentioning it as
an historical date of
Special Significance to Hengo.

No advice one way or
other

File RFE
Hungary

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