

RADIO FREE EUROPE
MUNICH

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

JUN 9 20:01

TO: 0

MUN 44 9 JUN 67

TO: RICHARDSON INFO YARROW ROWSON DUNNING KAUFMANN SCHNEIDER
FM: DURKEE INFO WALTER KINGSLEY

091758:

THERE FOLLOWS A BRIEF U.P. ITEM WHICH APPEARED SEVERAL DAYS AGO IN THE INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF THE HERALD TRIBUNE, AS WELL AS A REPORT FROM OUR ROME OFFICE ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

UPI REPORTS THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS AGREED TO CANCEL THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS THAT HAVE BEEN ORIGINATING IN PRAGUE. AS YOU WILL NOTE, OUR ROME BUREAU HAS BEEN TOLD THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS HAD NO OFFICIAL WORD TO THIS EFFECT.

ALL OF THIS IS VERY INCONCLUSIVE, BUT WE ARE MAKING EFFORTS THROUGH LOCAL CHANNELS TO SEE IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. IF YOU HAVE ANY BACKGROUND ON THIS SUBJECT -- OR IF YOU RECEIVE ANY -- WE WOULD OF COURSE APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED.

TEXTS FOLLOWS:

UPI ITEM
ROME OFFICE REPORT

PROPAGANDA CURBED

ROME, JUNE 6 (UPI).-- CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS AGREED TO CANCEL ITS ITALIAN-LANGUAGE PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS, THE ITALIAN NEWS AGENCY ANSA SAID TODAY, QUOTING AN "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE" IN PRAGUE. ITALY REGARDS THE BROADCASTS, WRITTEN BY ITALIAN COMMUNISTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AS UNDUE INTERFERENCE IN ITS DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

X/13 CURT - ITALY UNINFORMED ON CSSR PLANS TO CANCEL PROGRAM F-118

ROME, JUNE 8.-(RFE SPECIAL/TEMPEST).-- THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS HAD NO OFFICIAL WORD THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS TO CANCEL A PROPAGANDA PROGRAM BEAMED TO ITALY AND OTHER WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE.

"WE WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL JUNE 19TH, THE DAY WHEN THE PROGRAM IS TO PURPORTEDLY STOP," A SPOKESMAN FROM THE PREMIER'S OFFICE SAID TODAY.

NEWS OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE PRAGUE PROGRAM, "TODAY IN ITALY," APPEARED EARLIER IN THE WEEK IN A DESPATCH FROM THE PRAGUE CORRESPONDENT OF THE ITALIAN NEWS AGENCY ANSA.

(ANSA'S ORIGINAL STORY SAID IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHEN THE PROGRAM WOULD BE SUSPENDED. THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID HOWEVER HE HAD READ AN ANSA CORRECTION TO THE STORY WHICH GAVE THE SUSPENSION DATE AS JUNE 19TH)

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE ANSA STORY WAS THE ONLY INDICATION THE GOVERNMENT HAD OF ANY SUSPENSION.

THE PROGRAM IS STILL BEING HEARD REGULARLY, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE BROADCAST IS A POLEMICAL PROGRAM BROADCAST AT 1930 (MT) DAILY FOR 20 MINUTES.

IT HAS BEEN ON THE AIR FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS, HE SAID, AND ITALY HAS ON OCCASION PROTESTED ITS PRO-COMMUNIST ANTI-ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CONTENT.

THE BROADCAST CONSISTS OF POLITICAL COMMENT, SOME MUSIC, AND INFORMATION ON CULTURAL EVENTS, ETC., THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

DURING THE STALIN ERA, HE SAID, THE PROGRAM WAS "BITTERLY POLEMICAL," BUT SINCE KHRUSHCHEV IT HAS BECOME SOFTER IN TONE.

A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE PROGRAM IS DIRECTED AT ITALIAN WORKERS LIVING IN GERMANY, HE ADDED.

END MSG