

RADIO FREE EUROPE  
MUNICH

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INCOMING OTHER MESSAGE

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NYC 124 18 MAR 1967

TO OTT COPY GROZIER LANGENDOR KINGSLEY WALTER

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WE HAVE SEEN ONLY ONE SIGNIFICANT PRESS COMMENT TODAY: AN UNPLEASANT EDITORIAL IN THE WASHINGTON POST (FRIDAY) HEADED "END OF THE RFE CHARADE." FYI, THE POST HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS OPPOSED RFE'S PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN, SO THE ATTITUDE EXPRESSED IN TODAY'S EDITORIAL IS NOT STARTLING. TEXT FOLLOWS:

"RADIO FREE EUROPE AGAIN HAS ASKED TO BE INCLUDED AMONG THOSE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES ALLOWED TO SOLICIT FUNDS FROM FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN THE COMBINED CHARITY DRIVE. THE REQUEST SHOULD BE DENIED. RFE IS A POLITICAL OPERATION OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY; IT MASQUERADES AS A CITIZEN ORGANIZATION UNDER VOLUNTEER CONTROL. THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION APPARENTLY HAS AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CIA TO LET RFE SOLICIT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. THE COMMISSION SHOULD END THIS INDEFENSIBLE BIT OF ANNUAL DECEPTION.

"RFE'S 'COVER' HAS BEEN QUITE 'BLOWN' BY THE RECENT DISCLOSURES ABOUT THE CIA. IF IT IS TO KEEP ASKING THE PUBLIC FOR MONEY, IT SHOULD SEVER ITS CONNECTION WITH CIA AND OPEN ITS NOW-SECRET BOOKS. OTHERWISE IT SHOULD STOP ASKING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR A SECOND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION -- THEY ALREADY MAKE A FIRST INVOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION THROUGH THEIR TAXES -- AND INSTEAD SHOULD GO TO CONGRESS FOR ALL ITS FUNDS. WHY NOT GO PUBLICLY AND OPENLY?"  
(END TEXT OF POST EDITORIAL).

END MSG