

TO KASTNER COPY RICHARDSON MCDONALD KAUFMANN GRENE RFEF  
FM MINTON COPY SMITH OTT LANGENDORF BURKS

23/1330.

WE HAD A BRIEF FLURRY YESTERDAY OVER A STATEMENT CARRIED BY WEST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY DPA MADE BY BAVARIAN INTERIOR MINISTER HEINRICH JUNKER DURING THE COURSE OF AN INTERVIEW WITH A PAPER IN ESSEN. THE DPA DISPATCH LINKED RFE IN A VAGUE WAY TO THE ARGOUD, BIDAULT AND RAJAKOVIC AFFAIRS AND QUOTED JUNKER AS SAYING "THE ENTIRE PERSONNEL OF THIS STATION FINANCED BY AMERICAN SOURCES IS AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN FOR US WHICH CANNOT BE DISPOSED OF WITH THE LEGAL MEANS AVAILABLE TO A STATE BASED ON LAWS. ONLY A PEACE TREATY CAN BRING ABOUT CHANGES."

THE ENTIRE DISPATCH MADE VERY LITTLE SENSE TO US. LANGENDORF CALLED JUNKER'S OFFICE AND ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WHICH HE WAS GRANTED FOR FRIDAY. LATER IN THE DAY IT BECAME APPARENT THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AT ONCE AND WE ISSUED A VERY BRIEF STATEMENT EXPRESSING SURPRISE AT BEING LINKED TO ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, POINTING OUT THAT HALF THE PERSONNEL HERE IS GERMAN, THAT WE OPERATE UNDER A LICENSE GRANTED BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THIS STATEMENT WAS CARRIED IN THE SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG IN FULL TODAY, FOLLOWED BY AN EXPLANATION FROM JUNKER THAT HE WAS MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE REPORTER OF THE ESSEN PAPER. WHAT HE REALLY HAD SAID WAS THAT BECAUSE RFE PERSONNEL ARE SOMETIMES THE SUBJECT OF COMMUNIST HARASSMENT, THIS IMPOSES A BURDEN ON HIS DEPARTMENT. THE MUENCHNER MERKUR AND THE ABENDZEITUNG CARRY FAVORABLE STORIES TO US AS WELL. THE EPISODE WAS UNFORTUNATE AND UPSET MANY OF OUR STAFF BUT THE ENDING WAS A HAPPY ONE.

END MSG