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IN COMMENT ON ANTICIPATED 25,000 US TOURISTS TO THE SOVIET UNION IN 1960, PRAVDA OF 18 FEB HAS A SHARP ATTACK ON A EUGENE LYONS ARTICLE CARRIED IN RECENT ISSUE OF READER'S DIGEST. PRAVDA IDENTIFIES LYONS AS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH RFE AS FOLLOWS:

"EUGENE LYONS...IS A JOURNALIST BY PROFESSION AND A PROVOCATEUR BY AVOCATION. HE HAS BEEN A 'SPECIALIST ON RUSSIA' EVER SINCE HE LAST WAS IN MOSCOW IN 1934 AS A UNITED PRESS CORRESPONDENT. HE HAS BEEN CHARGED MANY TIMES WITH ORGANIZING ANTI-SOVIET BROADCASTS OF RADIO FREE EUROPE, WHERE HE IS AN ACTING POLITICAL ADVISOR".

TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, LYONS WAS AT ONE TIME AND MAY STILL BE IN SOME WAY ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE BUT HAS NEVER BEEN CONNECTED WITH RFE. THIS "ERROR" WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM VIEW, FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE RADIO LIBERTY STAFF, THAT SOVIETS KNOW BETTER, BUT THAT REFERENCES SUCH AS THIS TO RFE IN SOVIET PRESS ARE ACTUALLY EMPLOYED TO AVOID PUBLICIZING NAME OF RADIO LIBERTY.

REGARDS

END MSG