

--EYES ONLY--

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23:07

TO: RICHARDSON
FM: SMITH

EYES ONLY

12-1964

REF NYC 116.

THE BROADCAST ANALYSIS SECTION STARTED THIS MORNING THE PREPARATION OF A RUN-DOWN ON RFE RESPONSE TO THE SUCCESSION CRISIS. THEY WILL BE ABLE TO TURN OUT THEIR INITIAL REPORT BY THE OPENING OF THE WIRE TOMORROW, SO THAT YOU COULD HAVE IT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. THE ONLY WAY WE COULD SEND YOU EVEN A SUMMARY TONIGHT WOULD BE BY CALLING PERSONNEL BACK TO RFE THIS EVENING WHICH I WOULD NOT WANT TO HAVE TO DO IN VIEW OF THE HEAVY EXTRA DEMANDS WHICH HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ALL CONCERNED DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS AND WHICH WILL BE CONTINUING FOR A GOOD MANY DAYS TO COME.

THE ONLY WAY WE COULD ASSEMBLE THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION NEEDED TO MAKE A REPORT TONIGHT ON THE UTILIZATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN TODAY'S BROADCASTS WOULD BE TO CALL ON RESPECTIVE BROADCAST DEPARTMENTS AS TO WHAT HAS BEEN BROADCAST SO FAR TODAY AND WILL BE BROADCAST THE REST OF THE EVENING. MOST OF THE KEY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WORKING EXTREMELY LONG HOURS AND HAVE BEEN VERY HARD PRESSED TODAY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GET MAXIMUM COVERAGE ON THE SUCCESSION AFFAIR DURING THIS IMMEDIATE PERIOD WHILE WE CAN CAPITALIZE ON HAVING LARGER THAN USUAL AUDIENCES. BY TOMORROW MORNING OUR BROADCAST ANALYSIS SECTION CAN ASSEMBLE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ON UTILIZATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WITHOUT HAVING TO INTERRUPT THE WORK TONIGHT OF THOSE WHO ARE ACTUALLY PREPARING AND PUTTING ON BROADCASTS. THEREFORE, UNLESS IT IS OF SOME VERY SPECIAL URGENCY, TRULY IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO INTERRUPT BROADCAST EFFORTS, I URGE THAT WE NOT TRY TO SUBMIT SUCH A REPORT TONIGHT.

I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS REPLY OBVIOUSLY SEEMS VERY NON-RESPONSIVE TO A REQUEST WHICH NO DOUBT ORIGINATED IN YOUR MIND WELL BEFORE NOON YOUR TIME TODAY.

HOWEVER, THE TIME ELEMENT IN THE TRANSMISSION OF MESSAGES AND THE (MORE)

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TIME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NEW YORK AND MUNICH INTRODUCE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES PROBABLY MORE REAL THAN THEY ARE APPARENT TO YOU IN NEW YORK. YOUR NYC 116 REACHED MY HANDS ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES OF SIX TONIGHT. BY THE TIME I HAD ASCERTAINED JUST WHAT WE MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO TONIGHT WITHOUT THROWING UNWARRANTED ADDITIONAL BURDENS ON THE HARD PRESSED BDC, IT WAS ALREADY WELL AFTER 1800. THOUGH MARKED 11:30 YOUR TIME THE MSG ACTUALLY WAS NOT RECEIVED ON OUR TELETYPE UNTIL 17:19 OUR TIME.

IT MUST SEEM TO YOU THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TURN OUT REPORTS LIKE THIS IN STRIDE, AND NO DOUBT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO. HOWEVER, WE ARE STILL A LONG WAY FROM THE END OF OUR BROADCAST DAY, RIGHT AT A VERY BUSY TIME FOR THOSE WHO ARE STILL ON DUTY HERE, AND WE ARE SIMPLY NOT GEARED TO ASSEMBLE AT THIS HOUR INFORMATION AS TO WHAT HAS BEEN BROADCAST SO FAR TODAY OR WILL BE BROADCAST DURING THE REST OF THE EVENING, WITHOUT CALLING ON KEY PEOPLE TO DROP OTHER WORK AND PULL TOGETHER THE NECESSARY DATA.

DURING THE DAY TODAY SEVERAL OF OUR HARDEST WORKING AND MOST CONSCIENTIOUS KEY PEOPLE RAISED THE POINT THAT DURING TIMES OF PRESSURE LIKE THE PRESENT ONE, WE SHOULD CALL OFF ALL ROUTINE DEMANDS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF REPORTS AND MEMORANDUM WRITING, SHOULD CANCEL STAFF MEETINGS NOT PERTAINING TO IMMEDIATE

BROADCAST MATTERS, ETC. ETC. WHILE WE COULD IMMEDIATELY INTERRUPT OTHER THINGS AND CALL BACK TO THE BUILDING THE NECESSARY NON-BROADCASTING STAFF TO PREPARE THIS REPORT TONIGHT, IT IS MY BELIEF THAT YOU WOULD NOT WANT US TO DO SO IN VIEW OF THE EFFECT IT WOULD HAVE UPON OUR PERSONNEL WHO ARE GOING ALL OUT TO DO THE BEST POSSIBLE JOB OF PUTTING ON MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE BROADCASTS WHILE THE IRON IS HOT.

END MSG