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Document Number: 116978

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2152

ID# 116978

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

FG 999

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 26, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. GARY A. MARCO

SUBJECT: ENDORSES THE REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE PLANNED
VOA ELIMINATION OF BROADCASTS IN CERTAIN
LANGUAGES AND ITS IMPACT ON VOA EMPLOYEES

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
KATJA BULLOCK		ORG	90/02/26		C 90/03/01
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:		R	90/03/01		C 90/03/05
REFERRAL NOTE:		A	90/03/08	RG	90/04/12
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS:

NSC 9002152

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1180 4300

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *
* * *CORRESPONDENCE: *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED * CODE = A *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC * OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * * *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * * *
*X-INTERIM REPLY * * * *

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75,OEOP) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9002152
RECEIVED: 20 MAR 90 09

TO: MARCO, GARY A

FROM: GATES

DOC DATE: 12 APR 90
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VOA

MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO MARCO LTR

ACTION: GATES SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 23 MAR 90

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: DYKE

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

DYKE
MILLER
ROSTOW

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY

RCA

DATE

4/12

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSRCB

CLOSED BY: NSRCB

DOC 3 OF 3

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UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9002152
RECEIVED: 20 MAR 90 09

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: MARCO, GARY A

DOC DATE: 20 FEB 90
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VOA

MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL PRES COMMIS TO REVIEW PLANNED VOA
ELIMINATION OF BROADCASTS IN CERTAIN LANGUAGES & ITS IMPACT ON VOA

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE DATE: 23 MAR 90

STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: DYKE

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

DYKE

FOR CONCURRENCE

ROSTOW

FOR INFO

BLACKWILL
RODMAN

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSRCB

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 12, 1990

Dear Mr. Marco:

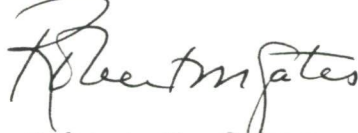
Thank you for your letter to the President, expressing concern about impacts in foreign policy and at Voice of America from possible termination of six VOA foreign language broadcasts.

As you may know, it was recently announced that the six language services VOA thought would have to be terminated due to budgetary constraints will be retained; therefore, the foreign language broadcasts you were concerned about will continue indefinitely.

The Administration, moreover, is presently reviewing the role of all U.S. Government radio and television broadcasting activities in the context of overall U.S. foreign policy objectives. The review will take account of the views of non-government experts, and, accordingly, a member of the National Security Council staff will be in touch with you in this regard.

Again, thank you for communicating your thoughts on this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Gates
Assistant to the President
and Deputy for National
Security Affairs

Mr. Gary A. Marco
President
National Federation of Federal
Employees Local 1418
101 Skyhill Road, #201
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

2152

April 9, 1990

SIGNED

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT M. GATES

THROUGH: DAVID ~~Miller~~ MILLER, JR.

FROM: NANCY BEARG DYKE ^{NBD}

SUBJECT: Response to Letter re Possible Termination of
VOA Foreign Language Broadcasts

Attached at Tab I for your signature is a response to Gary Marco, President of the National Federation of Federal Employees, who has written the President expressing concern about the possible termination of VOA foreign language broadcasting. Your reply informs him that a review of US Government international broadcasting is underway and that a member of the NSC staff will be in touch with him regarding his views.

Concurrence by: Nick Rostow ^{NR}.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Letter to Gary Marco
Tab II Incoming Correspondence



Local _____

February 20, 1990

KB
The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On Thursday, February 1, 1990 officials of the Voice of America announced that effective April 1, 1990, the Agency would be terminating broadcasts in Greek, Lao, Slovene, Swahili, Turkish and Uzbek. Fifty-seven VOA employees will be immediately affected by this action, in the six services named, with other Agency employees also likely to be affected when the Agency begins reduction-in-force procedures. VOA officials also indicated that further program and language service cutbacks may loom in VOA's future. These actions are being portrayed as the consequence of budgetary constraints.

Without minimizing the impact of fiscal retrenchment being felt throughout the Government, we believe that this specific action as a response to fiscal necessities is ill-timed, ill-advised and shortsighted.

Presently, we are witnessing unprecedented social and political evolution in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. These developments are but the first steps in a long, and perhaps arduous process which will likely take many years, to be tested all along the way by social, economic, and political crises.

While the circumstances may be different, the necessity for an enduring VOA presence is just as vital today as it was over forty years ago. It is in the best interest of all the countries and peoples involved to move forward with peaceful social, political and economic reforms which result in improved standards of living and greater cultural understanding.

With regard to some of the language services involved in this operational cutback, circumstances in the target areas remain oppressive regardless of the great changes taking place elsewhere.

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
Page Two.

Addressing the individual language services involved, we note the following:

Maintaining the Greek and Turkish services promotes the symbol and the reality of cooperation and commonality of interests. Both countries play a major role in the NATO Alliance. Both countries continue to strive toward resolution of issues which have placed them in conflict with each other. Maintaining both services demonstrates the continued interest and commitment of the United States to the mutual interests of all three nations.

Continuation of Slovene broadcasts are presently very critical as reform elements in Yugoslavia press their demands for social and political evolution, with consequences for neighboring Albania as well.

Termination of Uzbek broadcasts calls for reconsideration, given the fact that Uzbekistan is yet another significant Soviet republic confronting the same social and political issues of neighboring Soviet Moslem republics.

The absence of Swahili broadcasts in East Africa deprives the United States of a potential audience unofficially estimated at between fifty and seventy million, over several national boundaries, just south of troubled Somalia and Ethiopia.

Finally, with the end of broadcasts in Lao to Laos we see yet another painful reminder of our diminished involvement in Southeast Asia, leaving the Laotians without any broadcasts in their native language by a Western international radio service. In our view, abandoning the Lao in this manner dishonors the memory and the substance of our involvement in Indochina and the sacrifice that went with it.

In many regions of the world, what we say is equally important as what we do. The decision to eliminate these six language services and their broadcasts jeopardizes our credibility on both counts.

The United States aspires to maintaining its preeminent role in world affairs. As such, we carry with these aspirations certain duties, obligations and responsibilities. When the Voice of America goes silent in its indigenous language broadcasts to various corners of the globe, the United States loses what has to be one of the most effective means at its disposal for cross-cultural communication and understanding directly at the individual level.

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
Page Three.

Rather than eliminate language services at this critical juncture in world affairs, we believe that the Voice of America would be served better by eliminating waste and mismanagement.

Many millions of dollars have been spent by VOA in pursuit of the National Security Council mandate of the 1980s, only to find VOA in the 1990s making retrograde movement from essentially where it was at the beginning of the past decade. Many more millions of dollars will be spent in moving VOA to a new location in the 1990s as still appears to be the Agency's desire.

Coupled with these issues is the state of VOA's internal affairs, in the form of management personnel practices highlighted in a GAO report released in mid-1989. These problems are severe enough to move the United States Information Agency to let a contract for the services of an industrial psychologist to determine why there is a morale problem at the Voice of America. Among a variety of factors, nothing is perhaps more damaging to employee morale than the decision to reduce Agency operations and conduct reduction-in-force procedures.

In bringing these issues to your attention, it is our hope that the Administration and the Congress will recognize that the decision to eliminate VOA language broadcasts and staff in the Greek, Turkish, Lao, Slovene, Swahili and Uzbek services requires reconsideration, and that senior USIA and VOA officials be directed to determine alternative, non-personnel methods to reduce waste, particularly with regard to the Agency's capital expenditures, in order to conform to fiscal guidelines established for VOA.

To this end, we support and endorse the request by the Honorable Dante B. Fascell, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, that a special bipartisan Presidential Commission be named to review U.S. public diplomacy and our international broadcasting services. Such an endeavor must be thorough and comprehensive, calling upon distinguished Americans who have a demonstrative knowledge of cross-cultural communication, broadcasting in both the American and international settings and the broad range of political considerations attached to any such undertaking.

In support of the establishment of this Presidential Commission, we would suggest that such individuals as the following be given consideration for appointment:

The Honorable Charles Percy, former U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois;

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
Page Four.

The Honorable Mary Bitterman, a former Director of the Voice of America under former President Carter; and

Mr. Arthur Imperatore, a former Ombudsman of the United States Information Agency under former USIA Director Charles Z. Wick.

We would also urge that upon formation, the Presidential Commission seek out the views of VOA employees, through responsible spokespersons, and arrange for the establishment of procedures to accomodate this request. ✓

The Voice of America has provided the world with a message of hope and understanding for almost fifty years. Today, in some regions of the globe, hopes and aspirations long denied now have an unprecedented opportunity for expression and growth. For our part, we now have an opportunity to review our international broadcasting services with an eye toward making our efforts more fully effective and efficient.

As VOA employees look back over these many years of hard work and service, we hope that both the Administration and the Congress will recognize the value of continued Voice of America broadcasts to our international audiences in all of our existing language services.

Thank you for your consideration of our views regarding the Voice of America.

In the National and Public Interest, I remain

Respectfully yours,



Gary A. Marco
President, NFFE Local 1418
101 Skyhill Road, #201
Alexandria, VA. 22314

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: WKA

LOG # 2152

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG CM A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
<i>Bill</i> Bill Sittmann	<u>1</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>A</u>
Bob Gates	<u>2</u>	<u>g</u>	
Brent Scowcroft			
Bill Sittmann			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>		<u>D</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>4</u>		<u>D</u>

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No further Action

cc: VP Sununu Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS

*Response to Ltr re Possible Termination
of UOA Foreign Language Broadcasts*

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9002152

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 DYKE
002 GATES
003

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 90032009 APPROPRIATE ACTION
Z 90041018 FOR SIGNATURE
X 90041211 GATES SGD LTR

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