



February 3, 1953

Dear Abbott:-

This is a letter quite aside from the list of names I have sent you. These are some notes on areas which I hope the Committee will find some time to explore, and quite naturally they are mostly things that I don't feel were done right. Maybe I am wrong, but if I am it would be useful to establish that fact.

MSA -- MSA has built up a tremendous information bureaucracy in competition with State and anybody else who happened to be in the work. Entirely aside from the money involved, I am under the impression that they have done a lot of very silly things and employed mostly empire builders.

One of the things that we will have to settle in the report is who does what, and with which, and to whom -- and the MSA Overseas Information (psychwar) organization will have to be thoroughly analyzed.

The Committee for a Free Asia is by all accounts a complete flop. Why? And what, if anything, should be done?

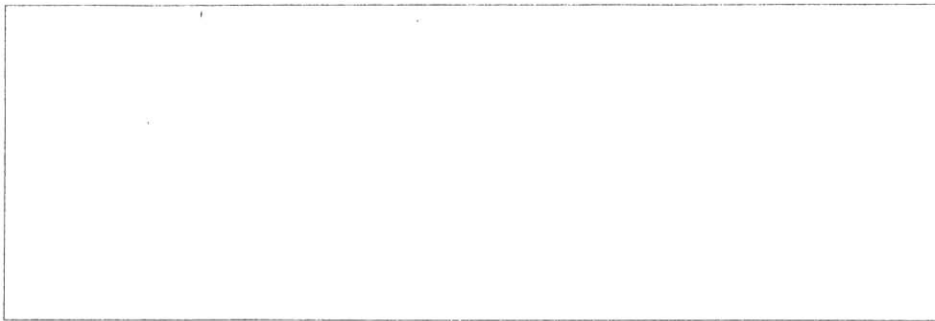
One of the most important aspects is the question of radio. Is it worth a huge capital investment to do a major radio job to these areas where, I believe, there are fewer receivers per thousand population than anywhere except the Australian bush?

An even more resounding flop than Free Asia is the Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia. Two years ago some February (Now), NCFE proposed [redacted] to initiate Russian-language broadcasts to the Russians in the satellite countries -- bureaucrats and soldiers -- offering this as an interim step pending the setting up of a major Russian-language operation [redacted]. We were stopped because the new Committee was going to swing into action immediately.

Last Friday we heard [redacted] March 1953 was the new target date, but [redacted] that was an optimistic date.

Knowing what can be done in the way of speed through our experience in NCFE and RFE, what went wrong here? And why?

[redacted]



What happened to Ed Barrett's excellent idea of saturating the Soviet channels with problem communication? (Incidentally, Ed Barrett has got to be included as a witness).

This was an idea of Barrett's based on the fact that anything serious happening anywhere in the Soviet Empire has got to be referred to Moscow for decision. In other words, everything serious that happens at the base of the pyramid has got to feed back to the apex to a handful of men. Therefore, if you create enough situations in enough different places, you swamp their switchboard, and the solutions and answers just don't come back, and everything stops. I still think it is a hell of a good idea, and one which Barrett was unable to sell within the State Department. There are, I believe, quite a few papers on this subject.

Then there is the problem which we touched upon on Friday about critical areas and emergencies which simply can't wait until our report is written in June. How are we going to work the week-to-week action program which the President and the Secretary of State are going to insist upon without crossing the bows of the Committee's deliberations?

All the best,



C. D. Jackson



P.S. I am attaching a report on the Free Russia group prepared by Bill Griffith & Co., and on the basis of observation I am inclined to agree with the conclusions.