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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

EDWARD G. SANDERS, STAFF DIRECTOR
 GERYLD B. CHRISTIANSON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

November 23, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: PRMs & PSMS

THROUGH: Ed Sanders & Jerry Christianson

FROM: Dave Keane & Peter Galbraith

SUBJECT: USIA & BIB Supplemental Request/
 Briefing -- November 30; 2:00 p.m.; 4221 DSOB

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Nov 30

On July 19, 1982, the President announced that "we intend to move forward consistent with budgetary requirements with a program to modernize our primary means of international communication, our international radio system." He observed that "the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty have been neglected for many years. Their equipment is old and deteriorating, their programming resources strained. Little has been done to counter the jamming that has intensified in recent years."

In accordance with the President's announcement, therefore, and with the unanimous recommendations of a comprehensive interagency study conducted by the National Security Council, the Administration submitted for the urgent consideration of the Congress an amendment to the FY 1983 budget request for the Board for International Broadcasting and for the U.S. Information Agency.

The amendment would increase the FY 1983 estimate for USIA by \$22.7 million, from \$644 to a total of \$666.7 million. Of this amount, \$19.8 million and 392 positions are requested in the Salaries and Expenses account and \$2.9 million in the Acquisition and Construction of Radio Facilities Account.

These additional funds for Voice of America programs and facilities will be applied to the correction of staff deficiencies in VOA's news operation, its studio-support services, program operations, engineering functions and to rebuild the VOA correspondent corps. New positions will also be required to plan and implement a major automation project for news and programming services, to plan and manage the modernization of VOA's facilities, and to reactivate the Dixon, California Relay Station. A total of 392 positions is requested.

In addition, VOA requires added resources to enhance the news bureau, various production facilities, program coverage and staff training, and to build and restructure audience relations and research efforts. VOA's text and data processing capability will be expanded to improve programming operations and give engineers a tool necessary for effective planning and utilization of facilities.

For BIB, a FY 1983 amendment of \$21,300,000 is sought to enable Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty to enhance programming, improve audio quality and renovate broadcast facilities. The amendment would fund additional program staff, freelance contributions, news bureaus, monitoring stations, modernized text and data processing systems, and anti-jamming research.

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The expansion of RFE/RL staff from 1675 to 1750 permanent employees would be primarily directed toward improving programming. This would include increased news gathering capacity, Soviet area research, and program capability in Ukrainian, Central Asian, Baltic and other nationality languages of the USSR.

The studios in the Munich broadcast center would be rebuilt. Transmission facilities, audio lines and security would be improved.

Of the \$21,300,000 BIB requested, \$12,870,000 represents one-time costs.

A briefing on this FY 1983 budget amendment will take place for all interested staff on Tuesday, November 30, at 2 P.M., in Room 4221 Dirksen.

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On July 19, 1982, the President announced that we intend to move forward consistent with budgetary requirements with a program to modernize our primary means of international communication, our international radio system. He observed that "the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty have been neglected for many years. Their equipment is old and deteriorating, their programs, resources strained. Little has been done to counter the growing threat that has threatened in recent years."

In accordance with the President's announcement, therefore, and with the maintenance requirements of a comprehensive interagency study conducted by the National Security Council, the Administration submitted for the consideration of the Congress in August in the FY 1983 budget request for the Radio for International Broadcasting and for the U.S. Information Agency.

The amendment would increase the FY 1983 estimate for USAIB by \$12.3 million from \$9.4 to a total of \$21.7 million. Of this amount, \$12.8 million and 332 positions are requested in the Salaries and Expenses account and \$7.9 million in the Acquisition and Construction of Radio Facilities Account.

These additional funds for Voice of America programs and facilities will be applied to the correction of staff deficiencies in VA's new operation, its studio support services, program operations, engineering functions and to rebuild the WM correspondence corps. New positions will also be required to plan and maintain a major education project for news and programming services, to plan and manage the modernization of VA's facilities, and to reactivate the Dixon California relay station. A total of 332 positions is requested.

In addition, VOA requires added resources to enhance the new bureau, various production facilities, program coverage and staff training, and to build and maintain audience relations and research efforts. VOA's text and data processing capability will be expanded to improve programming operations and the equipment a tool necessary for effective planning and utilization of facilities.

For BIB, a FY 1983 amendment of \$11,300,000 is sought to enable Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty to enhance programming, improve audio quality and upgrade broadcast facilities. The amendment would fund additional program staff, freelance contributors, news bureaus, monitoring stations, technical staff and data processing systems, and anti-jamming research.