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Radio Free Europe

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted to end the CIA's undercover financing of Radio free Europe and Radio Liberty.

Authorizing \$35 million for open government financing of the two during the coming year, the Committee defeated an administration proposal to establish a government-financed private corporation to supervise their operations.

Radio Free Europe broadcasts to Eastern Europe, Radio Liberty to the Soviet Union.

The Committee also voted a one-year extension of the Peace Corps with an authorization of \$77.2 million.

Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright opposed the bill, on the grounds that the

Radio Funds Approved by Senate Panel

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday turned down an administration proposal to create a publicly funded private corporation to run Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. Instead it approved a one-year direct appropriation of \$35 million for both stations.

The direct appropriation had originally been proposed by Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) in an effort to put an end to covert financing of the stations by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Case charged that "during the last 20 years, several hundred million dollars of U.S. government funds have been expended from secret CIA budgets to pay almost totally for these two radio stations broadcasting to Eastern Europe." Congress, he said, had no opportunity to vote on

these expenditures.

Case supported the administration bill, but as one source close to him put it, he "accepted graciously" when the committee approved his own original proposal instead.

The administration was understood to have sought the creation of a publicly funded private corporation to maintain a semblance of non-governmental direction for the stations. It was believed this would, in part, make it less embarrassing for the West German government, where the stations have their headquarters.

Since July 1, the stations have been funded directly by the Voice of America under a continuing resolution providing financing through Aug. 6. The appropriation approved yesterday in an executive session of the committee is for Fiscal Year 1972.

Sources in Sen. Case's office also disclosed that Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) who opposed both the Case and the administration proposals had requested that the Library of Congress undertake a study of the past effectiveness of the two radio stations and that the General Accounting Office look into their past financing. Congressional sources said they expected the two reports to be ready in the fall.

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