

NEW VOICES FOR RED LINE

news 4/14/67 There's Static on Fidel's Stations

By JULIAN MORRISON

In yesterday's editions of The Washington Daily News, columnist Don Maclean reported on fears of U.S. broadcasters over interference with their programs by several powerful new stations being built by Fidel Castro with Russian help.

There is much more to the story, however.

High Government sources said yesterday that the powerful transmitters are to be used primarily for propagandizing the peoples of Central and South America and that any interference with U.S. domestic stations would merely be a by-product.

Intelligence reports reveal that Castro has bought up to six transmitters from Czechoslovakia — two of them three times more powerful than any U.S. station, one of which is already on the air.

Officials here say Castro is using this transmitter to broadcast communist propaganda to Central American countries, especially Panama, on frequencies in the standard broadcast band.

The transmitter, located near Holguin in Oriente Province, is also capable of broadcasting to South America on short wave frequencies, which permit much longer-range transmissions.

Castro is currently constructing another 150,000 watt station in Havana — the same power as the station in Holguin. Two others — both having 60,000 watts of power — are being built in Santa Clara and Camaguey.

Two other 30,000 watt transmitters are reportedly in

operation in Colon and Pinar del Rio.

As with the Holguin station, U.S. officials say the prime function of the others will be propaganda aimed at Latin America.

But U.S. broadcasters' fears that the new Cuban stations will interfere with their nighttime programs are apparently well founded.

The Holguin station, operating on 670 kilowatts, could interfere with programs of Chicago's WMAQ, which uses the same frequency but has the maximum allowed power — 50,000 watts.

Interference has already been

reported with programs of WNBC in New York City.

The possibility of interference with U.S. stations has also had its effect on activities of the Cuban Freedom Committee, a Washington-based front for the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA has contributed heavily (reportedly over \$1 million in five years) to the Committee's "Free Cuba Radio," which sponsors anti-Castro broadcasts on Miami and New Orleans radio stations.

Last summer, after Castro retaliated by jamming its programs from a station in Key West, Free Cuba Radio pulled out.