

2/22/71

Dear Howard,

You will remember that some time ago I asked you to get xeroxes of the LHO radio for me and that you did. Thereafter I wrote you about this, undertaking to explain the differences in frequencies, etc., and that as of the time of my last knowledge (at your age I was a radio amateur, they used longer waves than we do.

Now neither this nor Newman are priority things. However, I may at some time want to address this, as in AGENT OBWALD, where I may indulge in a bit of ridicule of Newman, Bringuier, and the like.

There is a current diplomatic dispute that addresses this. The morning's Washington Post has a front-page story headed, "Soviets Renew Charge That U.S. Has Usurped Radio Frequency." They have resumed protesting the usurpation (it is the proper word) of the 173 meters frequency allocated under international accord of long, long standing to Radio Moscow. As I explained to you then, with the desire to cover relatively short distances dependably, the longer waves are preferable. The one in question here is off the WIP end of your dial in Phila.

So, if the LHO radio tuned but two frequencies, one, certainly, included the European long-wave band. I do not see any reason the USSR would have in wanting its citizens to tune the short-wave band, hence I think it likely that the second frequency might be close to our standard a.m. band.

With this explanation, I suggest that when you write the Archives again you refer to their kindness in xeroxing the set, explain that the result is not sufficiently clear to establish what frequencies the set was capable of tuning, as ask them to tell you.

It is a pretty safe assumption that Cuba does not use this frequency for normal entertainment purposes.

And where I referred to meters above, I meant kilocycles, the frequency being not 173 meters but 173 kilocycles. But the end of the dial is correct. So you can better understand, this compares with WIP at about 600 kc and WCAU at 1,210 kc.

Not urgent, and no rush, just if and when you can.

Best,

Post 2/22/71

Soviets Renew Charges That U.S. Has Usurped Radio Frequency

The Soviet Union last week renewed complaints that the United States has usurped a long-wave radio frequency that had been reserved for Radio Moscow.

The issue, which was raised with American diplomats in Moscow and popped up at least twice during the week in the Soviet press, was seen by officials here as part of a campaign to deprive Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty of their headquarters in West Germany.

Radio Moscow, in an English language broadcast beamed to North America said: "The Soviet Foreign Ministry has again called the United States' attention to the illegal use of the 173-kilocycle frequency by the Voice of America transmitter in Munich . . . The Soviet Union . . . has protested about these illegal actions." Tass, meanwhile, said that VOA was using the frequency "in flagrant disregard for accepted international norms."

The VOA resumed use of frequency 173 in mid-1969 in an effort to counter Soviet jamming of voice broadcasts. The frequency had been allocated to Radio Moscow by the 1948 Copenhagen Convention.

VOA is a government-run operation entirely separate from Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. But Tass went on to draw RFE and Radio Liberty into its dispatch on what it called the illegal use of frequency 173. Tass described RFE and Radio Liberty as "so-called 'private radio stations' which are in fact, and the Americans themselves have admitted this, branches of the CIA, generously financed by American intelligence."

VOA officials noted that the Russian campaign against U.S. use of long-wave frequency 173 had been quiescent for some time but was revived after Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) introduced a bill to put congressional controls on Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. Case charged that these operations were secretly

financed over the last 20 years with "several hundred million dollars in U.S. government funds."

U.S. officials also linked the Soviet campaign against the American broadcasting organizations to the recently signed Bonn-Moscow treaty. They believe Moscow is trying to use West German desire for detente in Europe as a means to

squeeze these organizations out of a base.

While the Russians did not raise the issue directly during the negotiations leading to the treaty they did mention informally that they did not believe that the continuation of broadcasts by these organizations, which they considered provocative, were consistent with the spirit of detente.