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U.S.I.A. COVERAGE ON AID DEFENDED

But Chief Would Have Used
Editorials on Greece

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13 —

The director of the United States Information Agency said today that if the decision had been up to him, he would have broadcast editorials on a Congressional move to suspend American military aid to Greece. The broadcast of editorials was prepared but not used early in August by the Voice of America.

Frank J. Shakespeare Jr., in testimony before a subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, defended the agency's coverage of the action by the House of Representatives to cut off military aid to Greece. "The contention that we are suppressing objective coverage of the news is not true," the 46-year-old former television executive said.

The issue of canceled broadcasts was raised by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak in their syndicated column on Aug. 11. They charged that the Voice of America was seeking to avoid offending the Greek Government lest it shut down the station's transmitter in Greece.

One Considered Too Old

Mr. Shakespeare said that one roundup of editorials, about the vote on July 15 in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, had been canceled by the deputy director of the Voice of America, William D. Miller, because it had become more than a week old.

He said that the Voice of America's director, Kenneth R. Giddens, had decided not to broadcast a second roundup, which contained excerpts from editorials by The Chicago Tribune, The Christian Science Monitor, The Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting Company. This broadcast was canceled, Mr. Shakespeare said, because "The V.O.A. management felt a sufficient amount had been broadcast to provide adequate coverage."

Three of the editorials favored the House action, and only The Chicago Tribune was opposed. It supported the Nixon Administration position against the amendment cutting aid to Greece.

President Can Override

The amendment, offered by Representative Wayne L. Hays, Democrat of Ohio and chairman of the subcommittee that heard Mr. Shakespeare, would suspend all American military aid or weapons sales to Greece, unless the President determined that "the overriding requirements of the national security of the United States" justified the aid.

An attempt on the House floor to eliminate the restriction on Aug. 3 failed. It is expected that the restriction will be retained by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when it votes on the over-all foreign aid bill.

"If I had been making the decision, I would have put it on the air," Mr. Shakespeare said today of the August editorial roundup.

Mr. Shakespeare, who was President Nixon's television adviser before being named to his current post on Jan. 13, 1969, said that the Voice of America had broadcast at least 10 news accounts and four commentaries on the House action.