

Role of Radio Free Europe

To the Editor:

On Sept. 14 you published a letter from Rafael Kubelik in Munich, Germany, claiming that "Radio Free Europe is a valuable instrument in the continuing dialogue between peoples," and pleading for continued tax support for the activities of Radio Free Europe. As the letter indicates, Mr. Kubelik has been intimately connected with Radio Free Europe, presumably in the

form of employment; accordingly, he may not be the most objective judge.

Radio Free Europe is known only to those few Americans who are interested in East European affairs, although its activity greatly affects many facets of American life. It was established in 1949 as an instrument of the cold war and has served the cold war ever since, even though this policy and its well-known spokesmen lost much of their former popularity with the majority of Americans.

In addition to "anti-Red" propaganda directed toward the countries of East Europe, Radio Free Europe has also carried out a vigorous political propaganda in the United States. It has published hundreds of pamphlets, mainly in foreign languages, established numerous ethnic-political organizations and supported a large foreign-language press in America, chiefly along the conservative line.

Radio Free Europe has consistently aided the conservative side of American politics, represented by such figures as Senator Joseph McCarthy, Senator Eastland, the present-day hawks, and has clearly opposed the liberal ideas of the country. It has carried out a systematic surveillance of Americans of East European origin and tried to exert a conservative political influence upon them.

As its past record suggests, Radio Free Europe has been a very one-sided instrument in any dialogue among people and its possible usefulness for the future has been greatly diminished by the same one-sidedness. Judged by its performance, Radio Free Europe deserves no further tax support for any of its activities.

JOHN KOSA
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