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Keep Free Radio Voice

-- Nixon

SF Examiner

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Nixon appealed to Congress yesterday in a last minute administration attempt to keep alive two radio stations which beam broadcasts beyond the Iron Curtain.

Unless they have assurance of more U.S. government funds, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty have served notice that they intend to start shutting down operations this week.

Nixon issued a public statement as the administration put forward a compromise offer in its dispute with Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), who wants to end the two operations.

'Deeply Concerned'

"I am deeply concerned at the imminent prospect that Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty may be compelled to shut down," Nixon said in the statement.

Stating that the American people and an overwhelming congressional majority strongly back Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, the President said, "It would be a tragedy if their light should now be extinguished because of a parliamentary impasse between the two houses."

State Department officials said the administration compromise offer has been put forward in hope of breaking the Senate-House conference committee deadlock over continuing the life of the stations.

Offer

The offer stipulates that:

- the Senate-passed version which would carry on the radios until June 30 would be accepted by the conferees instead of the House measure which would continue the operations for another two years.

- Both houses would agree to consider a separate measure which the administration would submit for running the radios in the 1973 fiscal year starting July 1.

In the three months time bought by the proposed compromise, the State Department would see whether America's European allies would help pay the radios' approximately \$40 - million - a - year cost.

Fulbright says Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty are vestiges of the cold war which should now be abandoned.