

C.B.S., in Shift, Denies Its Report Of Ending Radio Free Europe Ads

Dr. Frank Stanton, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, denied last night a report by the network that it had suspended free spot announcements for Radio Free Europe because they did not make it clear that the organization was an arm of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Monday night, in a special news program titled "In the Pay of the C.I.A.: An American Dilemma," the network disclosed that it had not carried such announcements since Feb. 15 and was in the process of restudying its policy on televising the announcements in the future.

But last night, in a telegram to John Richardson Jr., president of the Radio Free Europe Fund, Inc., Dr. Stanton said there apparently had been a misunderstanding within the network.

Cites Past Support

The C.B.S. television and radio networks and the C.B.S.-owned stations have strongly supported Radio Free Europe since its inception, Dr. Stanton said. He went on: "That support was extended this year during the two-week campaign conducted by the Advertising Council during the period Jan. 29 through Feb. 12, and subsequently. Indeed, the C.B.S. tele the campaign until Feb. 16, and the C.B.S. radio network carried a message as late as Feb. 28. One C.B.S.-owned television station broadcast a message promoting R.F.E. today [Tuesday]. At no time were the Radio Free Europe spots on our air canceled or suspended."

Dr. Stanton said that in his view Radio Free Europe should be supported by public identified funds "whether from Government or private sources."

He added that his "personal interest and support" continued undiminished.

The network's president de-

clined further comment last night. "The letter speaks for itself," he replied to a question as to whether C.B.S. would carry Radio Free Europe announcements during next January's campaign for funds.

When questioned Monday night about the network's position, Dr. Stanton, who is chairman of the executive committee of the Radio Free Europe Fund, said he had disqualified himself from considering the C.B.S. position and had left the matter to the discretion of other company officers.

A spokesman for C.B.S. News, which produced the C.I.A. documentary, said last night that there would be no comment on Dr. Stanton's telegram.

KMOX in St. Louis was the C.B.S.-owned station that carried the Radio Free Europe spot yesterday.

The National Broadcasting Company has said it will continue to give free television time to Radio Free Europe as long as the practice is supported by the Advertising Council.

The council conducts about 20 public service campaigns, including those for traffic safety, forest fire prevention and the United Nations. A council spokesman said Monday night that its campaign for 1967 had ended and the question of future campaigns would be taken up routinely next fall.

Radio Free Europe, which has its headquarters in Munich, has been in existence since 1950. It is privately financed by contributions from United States citizens and beams information, culture, religion and entertainment programs to East European countries.

Reports that it receives some of its financial support from the C.I.A. have been circulating for more than a year.