

Senate Panel Rebuffs Nixon on Radio Free Europe

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WASHINGTON, July 21 — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today defeated a Nixon Administration plan to finance and operate Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty under a tax-exempt corporation chartered by Congress.

The Central Intelligence Agency has operated the stations since the first was opened 20 years ago.

The committee, meeting behind closed doors, first killed the Administration's measure and then approved a proposal to give the stations \$35-million to operate for another year and leave them under C.I.A. control. According to Congressional sources, Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas and committee chairman, questioned the continuing need for the stations, and won majority support for the measure to keep them functioning until long-range plans could be drawn up and approved.

Mr. Fulbright is also said to have criticized the stations as remnants of the cold war, unsuited to current efforts to achieve a relaxation of East-West tensions.

Notes Many Stations

He is said to have expressed irritation over the large number of radio installations in Western Europe run by the Voice of America, the Central Intelligence Agency and the armed forces. The Armed Serv-

ices Network, for example, is said to include 43 installations in West Germany alone.

The network also operates 20 radio stations in Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece, Italy and Spain, Congressional sources said. The semi-clandestine RIAS, or Radio in American Sector, in West Berlin, has 11 facilities. The sources said Radio Free Europe has 13 facilities in the United States and West Europe and Radio Liberty had nine — including one in Taiwan. The Taiwan station broadcasts to the Asian areas of the the Soviet Union.

Radio Free Europe broadcasts to Eastern European countries and Radio Liberty to the Soviet Union, they were started in 1950 and 1961, respectively.

Both Have Solicited Funds

While each maintains an office in New York and solicits public donations, both have headquarters in Munich. Each station is manned largely by broadcasters and analysts of European extraction and the content of newscasts and analyses comprises largely items censored by Communist governments.

On June 25, the Senate passed a continuing resolution providing funds for various

agencies until the regular appropriations bills have cleared Congress. It included funds for the stations.

Mr. Fulbright told reporters after today's hearing that he had asked the General Accounting Office and the Library of Congress to prepare studies of the stations.

He indicated that when the studies are submitted — probably in early autumn — they will form the basis for committee recommendations whether to terminate the stations or to continue them under annual Congressional scrutiny and normal authorization and appropriation.