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Nixon to Ask Aid for Radio Free Europe

KEY BISCAIYNE, Fla., May 7 (AP)—President Nixon said today that he would soon ask Congress to finance continued operation of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, which broadcast to European Communist countries.

Mr. Nixon did so in making public a report of a Presidential study commission, headed by Milton S. Eisenhower, that was set up to review international broadcasting. Some Congressional critics have objected to the content of broadcasts by the two organizations, which were set up in the early nineteen-fifties, and their past subsidization by the Central Intelligence Agency.

In a statement the President said: "I endorse wholeheartedly the conclusion of the commission that these voices of free information and ideas serve our national interest and merit the full support of the Congress and the American people. The free flow of information and of ideas among nations is a vital element in normal relations between East and West and contributes to an enduring structure of peace."

Three-Month Delay

Federal financing of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty that replaced the subsidy will expire June 30 unless Congress acts. The Eisenhower commission reported Feb. 5 with the expectation that Mr. Nixon would "wish to submit your financial and policy recommendations to the Congress as early as possible in the present session." There was no immediate White House explanation for the three-month delay.

"For millions of listeners on the European Continent," President Nixon said, "Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty are sources of reliable, comprehen-

sive information. They make available a broad range of news and news analysis which we in the West take so much for granted that we sometimes forget that such information is denied to others."

The Eisenhower panel, in a 91-page report, said it had made its inquiry "in an atmosphere of dispassionate skepticism."

It concluded that the two ostensibly private broadcasting organizations "actually contribute to a climate of détente rather than detract from it" by providing uncensored information to listeners in the Soviet

Union, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria from transmitters in Munich.

"The stations are listened to regularly and appreciatively in the six countries," the commission said.

It said plans should be made for them to function for 10 years "since it is unlikely that the free movement of information in the Soviet sphere will become a reality any time soon."

More Funds Sought for U.S.I.A.

WASHINGTON, May 7 (AP)—James Keogh, director of the United States Information Agency, said today that the overseas information efforts of the Soviet Union and China were increasing while that of the United States diminished.

The Voice of America ranks fourth behind the Soviet Union, China and Egypt, Mr. Keogh told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in asking a \$17.6-million budget increase to \$224.4-million for his agency for the coming year.