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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

September 29, 1961

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF
DARRELL ST. CLAIRE, CLERK

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Fulbright

FROM: George Denney *h.c.s.l.*

SUBJECT: Outline of Further Staff Investigation into Influences of Foreign Governments and Other Foreign Groups Upon U. S. Foreign Policy Through non-Diplomatic Channels.

A. Questions to be Studied

1. To what extent is United States foreign policy being influenced through non-diplomatic channels by foreign governments and other foreign groups?
2. To what extent are the following - and other - channels being used by foreign governments:
 - a. U. S. public relations firms
 - b. U. S. law firms
 - c. foreign government "information services"
 - d. U. S. corporations substantially owned by foreign governments or foreign parties.
 - e. direct mailing to U. S. citizens

3. To what extent are the following - and other - practices employed by foreign governments:
 - a. unattributed or mislabeled films distributed in normal U. S. films and TV channels
 - b. unattributed or mislabeled articles, news items and editorials inserted in American publications.
 - c. unattributed or mislabeled tapes and scripts inserted in U. S. radio programs
 - d. subsidies and junkets to U. S. writers resulting in a conflict of interest
 - e. pressure on U. S. publications through advertising expenditures
 - f. hiring of former U. S. government officials
 - g. kickbacks to foreign Ambassadors from U. S. publicists out of fees paid for public relations and writing

4. Is the Foreign Agents Registration Act adequate to protect the American public against improper influences by foreign governments and parties?
 - a. To what extent has the factual basis of the Act been altered since the Act was passed in 1938?
 - b. Is the Act drafted so as to cover all the channels and practices of foreign governments which should be covered?
 - c. Has the Act been adequately enforced? Should enforcement be changed from the Department of Justice to the Department of State?

- d. Does the Federal Communications Commission adequately monitor TV to prevent unlabeled or adequately labeled foreign propaganda?
5. Do traditional international concepts of "improper interference in internal affairs" require review? At what point does the need of the U. S. Government to influence foreign governments and public opinion impose a limit on U. S. restraints on propaganda and public relations activities of foreign governments here?
6. To what extent are intelligence and internal security agencies of the U. S. Government cognizant of propaganda and public relations activities of foreign governments and parties? To what extent do such agencies facilitate or sponsor such activities?

B. Scope of Inquiry

The staff would try to have the preliminary inquiry completed by mid-January. The purpose of the inquiry would not be to reach conclusions on any of the foregoing questions, but to present factual information in a usable form.

The end product would be a staff recommendation as to whether or not further inquiry by the Committee would be warranted plus a card file of questions which had been systematically asked, together with the answers received.

The staff would take care to conduct a balanced study; balanced as to the foreign countries whose activities were scrutinized; balanced as to the time and effort devoted to the several questions posed; and balanced as to the types of persons and institutions interviewed.

C. Committee Decision in January 1962

On the basis of this preliminary work, the Committee should decide either to pursue the subject and schedule hearings, or discard it as unworthy of further exploration.