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AD HOC STUDY GROUP

ON

BROADCASTS TO AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS OF THE SINO-SOVIET BLOC TO
THE UNDERDEVELOPED AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Note by the French Delegation

Broadcasting plays a leading part in the attempt at ideological penetration made by the USSR and its satellites as well as by China. It has become apparent during the last few years, but particularly since 1960, that this effort is being considerably intensified.

2. The attached study shows the importance of the "Radio War" in the Communist penetration plan.

3. The broadcasts of the USSR and its European satellites appear to be "concerted" and the International Broadcasting and Television Organization, a Communist front organization, probably performs a planning function. It is also through this organization that the Communist bloc seeks to establish contact with the Radio-Television organizations of other countries, and in particular of the neutral or newly-independent countries to which it offers cheap equipment, training for technicians and assistance in the preparation of programmes.

4. The broadcasting services of the Communist countries also endeavour to establish contacts with listeners in other countries by organizing contests and offering prizes and gifts to reward the keenest participants. In certain countries, particularly in the Middle East, real networks have been formed in this way.

5. The Western countries have not failed to respond to the Sino-Soviet campaign and some of them are making great efforts to counter it. However, the Allies have not yet achieved the same degree of co-operation and harmony in this field as the countries in the other camp.

OTAN/NATO,
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PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS OF THE COMMUNIST BLOC TO AFRICA

1. The USSR and the other Communist countries have been making use of radio propaganda for a very long time. With the awakening of African nationalism and the accession of new States to independence, Moscow has felt impelled to make its voice heard by the peoples of Africa. It was in 1957/58 that the USSR started to make a very great effort to increase the duration and power of its broadcasts to the African continent. Its example has been followed by the Chinese People's Republic and, more recently, by practically all the satellite States.

(a) USSR

2. Up till 1956, the USSR used only to broadcast short programmes to Africa. The main language used was Arabic, and the programmes were intended for listeners in the Middle East and North Africa. Its Arabic Service was considerably extended after the Suez incident and during the second quarter of 1958 the USSR inaugurated its first special broadcasts to Central Africa.

3. Starting with 15 minutes per day in English, followed by 15 minutes in French, the duration of the programmes was lengthened in October 1958 to 45 minutes, in December 1958 to one hour and in April 1959 to two hours per day. At present, these broadcasts last 2 hours 45 minutes per day in each language. Since 1st February, 1960, there have also been two daily broadcasts of 30 minutes each in Swahili for East Africa and one 30-minute broadcast in Amharic.

4. At the same time, the number of frequencies used for these broadcasts is increasing; this leads to an appreciable improvement in their reception and the frequency-hour total must be taken as a basis when assessing their importance. The following table is characteristic of the present trend:

Language	Duration	1960		Duration	1961	
		Frequencies	F/H Total		Frequencies	F/H Total
English	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ h.	From 3 to 6	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ h.	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ h.	From 6 to 8	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ h.
French	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ h.	From 5 to 7	16 $\frac{3}{4}$ h.	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ h.	From 5 to 11	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ h.
Arabic	5 h.	From 5 to 7	28 h.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ h.	From 3 to 8	20 h.
Swahili	$\frac{1}{2}$ h.	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ h.	1 h.	8	8 h.
Amharic	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ h.	8	4 h.
<u>Total</u>	11 h.	From 3 to 7	60 $\frac{1}{2}$ h.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ h.	From 3 to 8	70 h.

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5. For example, from 11 in 1956, the frequency-hours of USSR broadcasts to Africa had risen to 70 in 1961. Although Soviet broadcasts in Arabic declined from 28 to 20 frequency-hours from 1960 to 1961, this was offset by new broadcasts from the satellite countries. The frequencies released have been used for broadcasts in Swahili and Amharic, which is evidence of the great interest taken in East and Central Africa by the USSR. There is reason to believe, however, that the vernacular languages of West Africa will not be neglected and that broadcasts in Haloussa will soon be introduced.

6. The content is practically the same in both the French and English broadcasts. For some time it has likewise been noticed that there is a certain similarity between the arguments developed by the European Service and by the African Service in programmes commenting on general political questions, such as the weekly review "World News". On the other hand, it is noted that in the broadcasts specifically designed for African consumption, particularly violent language is used against the Western powers, especially the former colonialist countries. Occasionally, Africans studying in the USSR are also brought before the microphone. They sing the praises of Soviet achievements and the tone becomes very bitter when they speak of local politics.

(b) Chinese People's Republic

7. Communist China has been making daily broadcasts in English and Arabic to Africa for a very long time. There has been a considerable increase in the number of frequencies used and the transmissions are beamed according to the time of day to East Africa, South Africa, Central Africa and West Africa. It is also a long-standing practice to broadcast daily programmes in the Cantonese dialect for the Chinese colonies of Madagascar and East Africa. The following table shows the marked increase in the frequency-hour totals of Chinese broadcasts to Africa, and particularly of those in French:

Language	Duration	1960		1961		
		Frequencies	F/H Total	Duration	Frequencies	F/H Total
Arabic	2 h.	3	6 h.	2 h.	6/7	13 h.
English	1½ h.	3/4	5½ h.	2 h.	6	12 h.
French	3 h.	3/4	10 h.	4 h.	7	28 h.
Portuguese	-	-	-	1 h.	3	3 h.

8. Portuguese broadcasts are a recent innovation and the Chinese have outstripped the USSR and its satellites in this field.

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(c) Hungary

9. As far back as 1952, Hungary started an Arabic broadcast entitled "The Voice of National Independence and Peace", whose violent tone was intended to foment the revolt of the peoples of North Africa. The importance of this programme has diminished and Radio-Budapest now broadcasts only one hour a day in Arabic.

(d) Czechoslovakia

10. Czechoslovakia inaugurated its African service in 1960. The broadcasts, which are given in Arabic, French and English, have been increased in 1961. Their tone is particularly sharp.

Language	Duration	1960		Duration	1961	
		Frequencies	F/H Total		Frequencies	F/H Total
Arabic	2 h.	3	6 h.	2 h.	3	6 h.
French	½ h.	3	1½ h.	1 h.	3	3 h.
English	-	-	-	1 h.	3	3 h.

(e) Poland

11. Poland started an African broadcasting service in January 1961. It consists of three daily programmes in French, each lasting half-an-hour, on three frequencies, representing a frequency-hour total of 4½ hours. The same amount of time is devoted to the English programmes. So far, the tone of these broadcasts seems to be moderate. They include a review of the Polish press, a sports feature, a talk on economic subjects and a short folk-lore programme.

(f) The Soviet Zone of Occupation in Germany

12. "Pankow" had been content until 1960 with broadcasts designed mainly for the Near and Middle East. In July 1960, an African Service was started. It broadcasts from the Berlin-Leipzig and Nauen Stations in Arabic, French and English. The Arabic broadcasts, which are primarily intended for audiences in North Africa where reception is very good, are extremely violent. A special programme in Algerian Arabic is intended for the rebel forces. The English and French broadcasts intended for Central Africa are not always very audible. There is reason to believe that their power, duration and the frequencies used will be increased in the forthcoming months.

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At present, the self-styled "D.D.R." broadcasts the following programmes:

in Arabic for 7½ hours per day on one or two frequencies, giving a frequency-hour total of 11½ hours;

in French for 45 minutes on one frequency;

in English for 45 minutes on one frequency.

(g) Bulgaria

13. For several years, Bulgaria broadcast a few programmes to the Middle East in Arabic, English and French. Since 1st June, it has started an African Service which consists of the following Arabic and French programmes:

Language	Duration	1960		1961		
		Frequencies	F/H Total	Duration	Frequencies	F/H Total
Arabic	2 h.	2/3	5 h.	2 h.	2/3	4½ h.
French	-	-	-	1 h.	1	1 h.

(h) Rumania

14. Rumania does not put out a programme especially designed for Africa, but does broadcast in English and French to the Middle East. However, since 3rd April, 1961, an Arabic programme intended for the Near and Middle East, but audible in North Africa, has been started. Only one hour per day is devoted to the programme, but several frequencies are used, giving a frequency-hour total of 3 hours.

(i) Albania

15. Albania does not broadcast a specifically African programme either, but Radio-Tirana makes three daily broadcasts in Arabic, each lasting one hour, in which African questions (Congo - Algeria) are dealt with in great detail.

(j) General Remarks

16. These figures show what an intensive radio propaganda effort is being directed at Africa by the Sino-Soviet bloc. From 1960 to 1961 the daily duration of the broadcasts has increased from 35 hours to 45½ hours, while the frequency-hour total has risen from 115 to 176 hours.

17. It is Radio-Peking which has made the greatest effort recently, but the co-ordinated progress of the USSR and its satellites is very substantial and a further increase must be

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expected in the coming months when the German People's Republic brings into service the programmes it has announced. The broadcasts in which the most spectacular increase is apparent are those in Arabic primarily directed at North Africa and the Middle East.

18. For the Communist bloc as a whole, the following daily frequency-hour totals have been recorded:

- in 1956 11 F/H
- in 1958 40 F/H
- in 1960 58 F/H
- in 1961 65 F/H

19. Although the languages most commonly used for broadcasts to Central Africa are still French and English, it should be noted that vernacular languages are being increasingly employed: Swahili and Amharic today, and probably Hausa tomorrow.

20. The Communist countries frequently ask Africans whom they have invited for a period of study or residence to speak on the radio. This practice, which enables closer and more direct contact to be established with the peoples they wish to influence, will probably be developed still further in the future.

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