HEREVER YOU MAY BE LISTENING to this broadcast, remember this:
The people of the United States extend
the hand of friendship to you across the seas . . .
Let us have faith together that all peoples may
one day walk in the sunlight of peace and justice."

Speaking from the flight deck of the "Courier"

—THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S new sea-going radio relay station designed to carry news of the free world to listeners behind the Iron Curtain — President Harry Truman recently dedicated the vessel to the cause of freedom in the struggle for men's minds.

As he spoke at the inaugural ceremonies, VOA's far-flung facilities poured the President's words from Washington to the corners of the earth. In the busy New York studios his speech was translated and rebroadcast in 45 languages, ranging from Azerbaijani and Amoy to Turkestani and Vietnamese.

From a marine architect's drawing, the "Courier"—first of a proposed flotilla of "truth transports"—had become reality.

Today this unique radio flagship, carrying its "cargo of truth" and the most powerful transmitters ever installed on a vessel, performs its special mission of broadcasting unbiased information from the high seas and strategic harbors.

Following her initial trip to Washington, where President Truman, Secretary of State Dean Acheson and other high-ranking officials gathered to dedicate the ship on the occasion of the VOA's tenth birthday, and a shakedown cruise to the Caribbean, the "Courier" began her task of covering areas beyond the reach of land-based transmitters and frustrating Soviet jamming by operating as close as possible to target areas.

From the hold of the 5,800-ton vessel, a multitubed 150,000 watt medium wave transmitter (three times the power of the largest American broadcasting station) throws voice broadcasts for 1600 kilometers. Two 35,000 watt shortwave transmitters and supporting communications equipment are also located in the hold of the converted Navy cargo vessel.

The floating transmitter usually relays news and special features on American life from temporary shore locations where foreign governments assign a frequency and a site for a temporary land installation. Should the occasion demand, however, the "Courier" may relay programs from the high seas—lifting its antenna skyward via a captive helium-inflated barrage balloon.

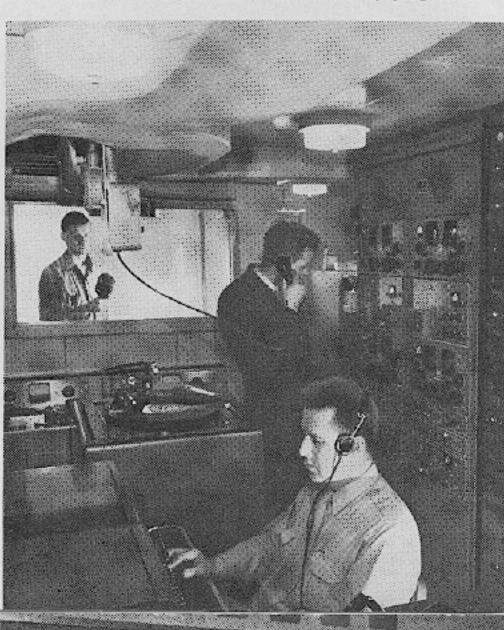
Commanded by Captain Oscar C. B. Wev, United States Coast Guard, the 338-foot vessel is manned by a volunteer Coast Guard crew of 80, including 10 officers with wide radio experience. Its members are representative of all 48 states and the territory of Hawaii. VOICE engineers supervise the radio relay operation.

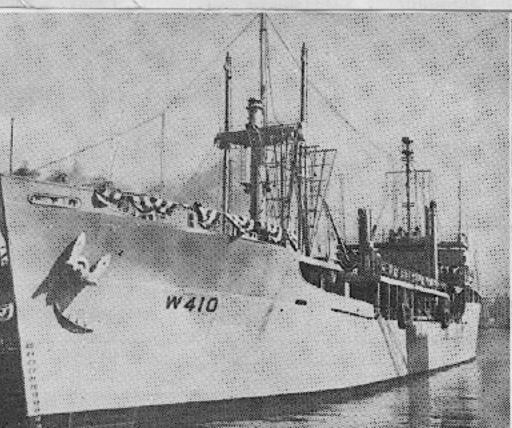
"The spirit of these Coast Guard volunteers typifies the attitude of all connected with the 'Courier'—the feeling that they are bringing the campaign of truth to people who would otherwise never hear it," says George Q. Herrick, Chief of VOA's Division of Radio Facilities Plans and Development, who originally created the plans for floating radio stations.

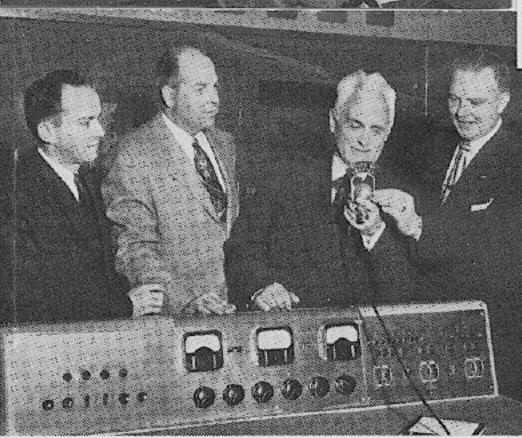
"As President Truman said at the dedication ceremonies, our arguments, no matter how good, are not going to influence people who never hear them. The purpose of this ship is to help get our message through!"

The "Courier" was constructed under a plan known as "Operation Vagabond." The project—to build a number of sea-going transmitters — was approved by the President and his staff and announced by the Department of State in April, 1951. Foy D. Kohler, Director of THE VOICE OF AMERICA, commented: "The present operation of the 'Courier' climaxes 10 years of VOA's efforts to tell the world how the American people live, work, and think. Shortly after Operation Vagabond began, Captain Wev was introduced to Jean

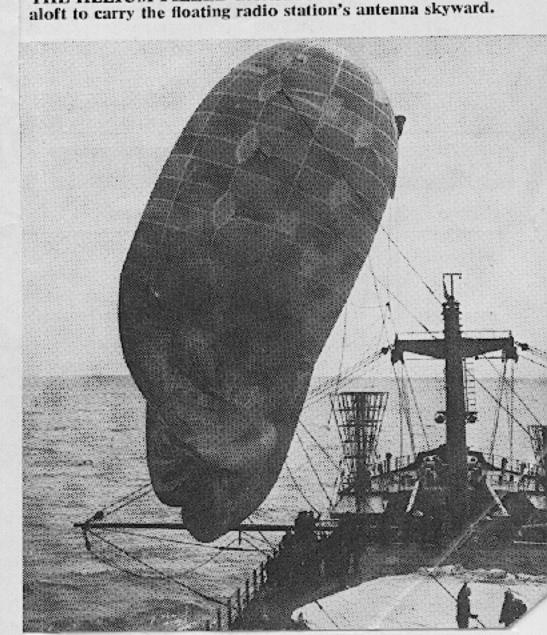
A CONTROL PANEL and broadcasting studio enable the "Courier" to originate as well as to relay programs.







LEFT: The "Courier." RIGHT: Dr. Wilson Compton, Administrator of the U. S. International Information Administration, delivers an address on board the "Courier" while (from left to right) Foy D. Kohler, Director of The Voice of America, Howland H. Sargeant, Assistant Secretary of State, and George Q. Herrick, Chief of VOA's Plans and Development Division, look on. High-ranking officials took part in two dedication ceremonies on board the ship.



THE HELIUM-FILLED BARRAGE BALLOON is raised

Seymour, VOA project engineer—and thus began a hectic year of activity. It was a dream come true when the 'Courier' was dedicated."

The "Courier's" flight deck is for the barrage balloons which will carry antennae far enough aloft to "place" voice broadcasts. The ship carries five of these balloons, 69 by 33 feet in size. A winch, located under the flight deck, spools the balloon cables up and down.

A large compartment midship stores 150,000 cubic feet of helium for the balloons.

Another hold contains Diesel engines capable of generating 1,500,000 watts of power. The three transmitters are built on a platform of eight-inch thick concrete. The platform "floats" on cork slabs which absorb the ship's vibrations.

Special announcements and original programs can be broadcast from a small studio and control center located on the top deck.

At both the commissioning ceremonies in Hoboken, near New York City, and the dedication of the vessel in Washington, many outstanding American leaders commented on the "Courier."

Secretary of State Dean Acheson told the distinguished audience assembled in Washington: "The mission of this ship is to bear to our friends who are free, and to those who are not free, the truth about what is happening in the world."

Dr. Wilson Compton, Administrator of the United States International Information Administration, said: "History demonstrates that it is difficult to quarantine ideas. By sending the 'Courier' with its message of hope and freedom to the seven seas, we aim to show the interest of America in other peoples and broadcast the precepts of democracy as opposed to totalitarianism."

But from a listener in an Iron Curtain country comes a letter which perhaps best demonstrates the hope for results of Operation Vagabond: "In our atmosphere of oppression, the moments of hope occur when we hear THE VOICE OF AMERICA. Your voice comes like greetings from a civilized world . . . We can live the life behind the Iron Curtain and keep on praying if you, on the other side of the ocean, continue to feed us with the strength of everlasting hope."