

RADIO LIBERATION ARMY: SACRED SWORD OF PATRIOTISM



A mysterious new Vietnamese clandestine station, known as Radio Liberation Army, for the past few months has been telling young North Vietnamese men not to fight in the South and urging the people to oppose Red China and follow the Soviet Union.

The station, a perfect example of black radio operation, claims to transmit from Hanoi, but obviously does not. Its frequency has not been reported by the press, but it may be inferred from other data that it transmits on a shortwave frequency. The station has been heard in Hong Kong, Saigon and in much of Vietnam, from the Demilitarized Zone to the Mekong Delta, daily, from 1300 to 1400 Vietnamese time (0500-0600 GMT).

The broadcasts follow a classic black radio pattern; urging nationalistic patriotism, denouncing the Red Chinese, while building up the Russians, whom the North Vietnamese might likely consider friends and peacemakers. But the station takes a few cracks at the U.S. and the Saigon government, presumably an attempt to convince listeners that the station is a friendly one and not a "prejudiced" voice of her enemies.

Considering classic black radio psychology, it can be assumed that this is actually a broadcasting operation under U.S. control. Naturally, U.S. officials in Saigon claim to know nothing of the station.

The daily program consists of speeches by an unidentified male announcer, who styles himself, "Guom Thieng Ai Quoc," the Sacred Sword of Patriotism, and news stories read by a woman. All programming is in Vietnamese.

The program opens with a nostalgic Vietnamese folk song, followed by the announcement: "This is a radio broadcast from Hanoi. This information is from Vietnamese political groups in the movement to win and preserve freedom."

One recent broadcast said, "Mao Tse-tung is a madman and wants world war--look to Russia." The broadcast said the economic condition in North Vietnam was "very bad" because General Vo Nguyen Giap and Ho Chi Minh were using "our resources to attack South Vietnam." Another news item stated that the Communist 9th Division had been badly defeated and nearly destroyed in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam's War Zone C. "Young men," the announcer added, "Don't go South!"

In one editorial, the station said Ho Chi Minh was being used by the Red Chinese. It urged listeners to "look to the USSR. Russia doesn't want war, it wants peace."

"North Vietnam has the power to break away from Communist China. Ho Chi Minh must reshuffle his government."

Near the end of the transmission, the announcer delivers several minutes of what are described as coded orders to special teams in the jungles and other remote spots, even in Hanoi, that are too dangerous to reach otherwise.

In Saigon, a government monitor said he had heard the broadcasts. "I don't know exactly where they come from but reception is much louder around the Demilitarized Zone, I know that." The DMZ blankets the border between North and South Vietnam.

U.S. Information Service chief in Saigon, Jack Stuart said he hadn't heard anything about such broadcasts. He referred a newsman to the mission's broadcast monitor, who said he didn't know anything either and didn't know who would.

Because the station can be heard over a 700 mile range at midday, it must be either a super powered medium wave transmitter or a shortwave outlet. The latter seems more likely. Some sources have speculated that it is a CIA operation. It is my opinion that it is more likely a project of the Army's Psychological Warfare units. It is interesting to note that the "father" of psychologically sound, black propaganda stations, Sefton Delmer, British journalist and former official of that country's WW-II propaganda station, guest lectured the Army's Psychwar school at Ft. Bragg, N.C., in 1962.

Possibly this mysterious station is located in a militarily secure area of northern South Vietnam, such as the Hue-Phu Bai sector. I would appreciate any additional data readers may gather on this station.

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(Based on data from the Associated Press, via Marlin Field, the American Broadcasting Co., ASWLC, and other press accounts.)

....Don Jensen