

CLANDESTINE CORNERINDONESIAN CLANDESTINE OFF THE AIR?

Recently, reports of an Indonesian clandestine station have reached stateside listeners. The station is called Suara Indonesia Bebas, or the Free Voice of Indonesia. According to reports, the station operates on 6,060 kc/s., with the frequency variable, as is common with clandestines. A NASWA reporter recently heard an unidentified station on this frequency around 0930-1000, which may or may not have been Suara Indonesia Bebas.

The station supposedly is an anti-communist one, and is supposedly also anti-Sukarno. It came into being during the Indonesian-Malaysian confrontation and many Indonesians supposed that it was located in Malaysia, particularly since reception was stronger in Sumatra than in Java.

Early in February, in a report datelined Djakarta, but broadcast by the Voice of Malaysia, was reprinted in the Cal-Tex Pacific newsletter, a bulletin issued daily by this oil firm for employes in the Sumatra oil fields, reported Indonesian forces had closed down a secret shortwave station. The raid occurred near Tjiandjur, in West Java. Several persons were said to have been detained in the raid.

An Indonesian source has suggested that this station might well have been Suara Indonesia Bebas.

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Using the address published in Frenex recently, several members sent reports to the clandestine Viet Cong station, Gia Phong Radio, the Voice of the South Vietnam National Front of Liberation. A few replies have been received, but they have been merely acknowledgement letters, as apparently the press attache in Prague does not have sufficient data available to actually verify reports. However, he has promised further communications once he receives further details from the station itself.

The address, as first reported by member Wendell Craighead, is:

Pham Van Chuong, Press Attache; Du Front National de Liberation du Sud Vietnam en Tchecoslovaquie; Nekazanka 7; Prague, 1, Czechoslovakia.

Replies were received within about two weeks, via airmail. Chuong gives the station's frequencies as being in the "25, 30.5 and 40.5" meter bands. The 30.5 meter nominal frequency has actually been reported as varying from about 10,012 to about 10,072 kc/s. recently. The frequency is well received in the U.S. The other two frequencies, to my knowledge, have not been reported in North America. FBIS lists them as 7,414 and 12,103 kc/s.

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According to an item in the West Indian DX Association recently, a letter to the BBC from the bulletin's feature editor, Ian Patterson, Scotland, brought the following reply to a question about the mysterious Radio Libertad...

"We regret that no information appears to be currently available on this radio station. It appears to be a political clandestine transmitter, and thus this department can offer no information concerning it."

Thus, now the BBC has joined the ranks of those who "NO!"

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According to information provided by C.M. Stanbury II, the clandestine Eskimo station, Inuit Neepingit, at Pond Inlet, Northwest Territories, Canada, has either returned to the air, or will do so shortly. Unfortunately, the station will operate only on medium wave, with Canadian government approval as an experimental outlet.

Authorities apparently closed down the clandestine operation's shortwave transmitter, 100 watts on 3,750 kc/s., for technical deficiencies. But, it is reported, the NWT representative in parliament interceded and as a result, the station was lent a low power BCB transmitter by the CBC.

Apparently then, there is no chance any more to log this station on a shortwave frequency.