

CLANDESTINE CORNERPEYK E IRAN

Moscow recently accomplished what the mysterious jammer, which gained fame as the "Kiss Me Honey" station, could not do in five years...close down the clandestine communist station, Peyk e Iran.

According to a "Radio Liberty Dispatch," authored by Christian Duevel, issued Mar. 1, "a curt, but intriguing announcement by the 'clandestine' Voice of the Iraqi People, which is operated by the Iraqi CP (communist party) in exile and believed to have its transmitters in Bulgaria, said in its Arabic broadcast on Feb. 24, that as of next Tuesday (Feb. 27) the Voice of the Iraqi People is compelled to suspend its transmissions temporarily."

The Voice of the Iraqi People is known in its Arabic transmissions as Saut-ul-Sha'abi Iraqi, and in the Kurdish language (to Iran) as Peyk e Iran (The Iranian Herald).

As recently as January, the station operated on 11,693 kc/s., plus frequencies in the 26 and 31 meter bands. It was also reported on 17,660 kc/s, early this year. It signed on at 1355 GMT, as Peyk e Iran, in Kurdish to Iran. It switched to Arabic under the Saut-ul-Sha'aba Iraqi name, for Iraq, at 1400, and then to Kurdish for Iraqi audiences, under the same name at 1415. From 1430 to 1810, it broadcast, variously in Persian, Kurdish and Azerbaijani, for Iran. Arabic programs for Iraq continued until 1840 GMT sign off. It announced an address in Sweden, Box 4176, Stockholm, 4.

Peyk e Iran long had been badly jammed by a station, supposedly in Iran, which gained fame for repeatedly playing a brief portion of the record, "Kiss Me Honey." Later, the jammer used other records to block the clandestine station. These included a Beatles' disc, and more recently, "My Blue Heaven," and other melody fragments.

Independent sources agree with Duevel's contention that the Iranian/Iraqi station broadcasts from the Sofia, Bulgaria area, though some reporters contended the transmitter location was in East Germany.

Duevel's paper quotes a Feb. 26 broadcast in the Kurdish service: "As of today and until an unknown date, the Voice of the Iraqi People will cease broadcasting...You certainly remember the black clouds which covered our country, Iraq, some five years ago. A bunch of criminals, bloodthirsty traitors (sic)...seized power in our country on Feb. 8, 1963 and stained Iraq with the blood of its brave sons...In those dark days the Voice of the Iraqi People started broadcasting and proclaimed the just voice of the Iraqi people to the world. Now, five years later, the situation has changed. Members of the clique have destroyed each other, the Iraqi people have regained their strength, and the Kurdish people are flying the flag of their liberation movement throughout Kurdistan and are insisting that they will not lay down their arms until all national aspirations are achieved. Our Iraqi Communist Party has regained its power and has entered the field of struggle...Dear citizens, under such encouraging conditions we must say goodbye for good reason. The feared gap which might have appeared by the cessation of the Voice of the Iraqi Communist Party for some time, especially since it has purged its ranks of opportunists and troublemakers..."

Duevel says, however, "It is thus clear that the Iraqi CP broadcasting station is not just suspending its transmissions temporarily, for technical or other reasons, but has been closed down definitely. The nostalgic and regretful tone so discernible in both announcements suggests that the Iraqi CP leaders themselves are unhappy about this development. The orders must have come from Moscow, and there was nothing they could do but obey."

"The reasons given by the Voice of the Iraqi People for discontinuing its broadcasts, viz. the "changed situation" in Iraq, do not seem convincing in the light of its own earlier broadcasts. Thus, only a few days before the news of its closing down, the broadcasting station had transmitted in full a resolution adopted by the Third Iraqi Communist Party Conference held in January of this year. It presented a picture of an Iraqi regime which engaged in "continuous aggressive acts against the Kurdish people" and is "crushing the people's democracy by force," "collaborates with imperialism" and has actually placed itself "outside the national liberation camp's



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CLANDESTINE CORNER (Continued)

struggle against imperialism and Israel." It is only logical that the contradictions between the anti-regime attacks on the Iraq government by the clandestine station and Moscow's official line, which supports Iraq, and the Arab nations, could not be maintained indefinitely without becoming counter productive and self-defeating in the end. So the Voice of the Iraqi People had to be silenced for the time being, to be reopened, to be sure, when Soviet foreign policy changes. The decision may well have been a difficult one in view of the strong pro-Peking leanings that are known to exist among an apparently substantial section of the communist rank-and-file in Iraq itself. The "Voice" was certainly effective in counteracting these pro-Peking tendencies. Moscow could have toned down the anti-regime content of the "Voice" broadcasts so as to placate the Iraqi government. But that would have merely helped the Peking faction in Iraq since it would have been interpreted as proof of the "treason" of the pro-Soviet Iraqi CP leadership in exile.

...data by B.T. Goldman with additions

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