

# CLANDESTINES -- THE POLITICAL VOICE OF RADIO

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The casual listener to shortwave or medium wave broadcasts will often miss one of the more interesting aspects of the broadcasting field: clandestines. These are stations operated by political groups whose primary aim is the overthrow of a government. Clandestine programming is generally political, and consists of broadcasts which discredit the government in question. Unlike normal broadcasting stations, they do not announce their actual location; indeed they may claim to be operating from another nation, or from inside the nation to which they are transmitting.

One of the earliest examples of clandestine broadcasting was the Allied "Radio 1212", which during World War II claimed to be a station operated by the German Army. Combining fact and fiction, the Allied Forces in charge of the station convinced many German troops that the station was actually a Reich station on the western front. Taking advantage of this, the station succeeded in convincing many that conditions were quite different than those being described by their commanding officers. To be rid of the station, a tape was made of a bombing sequence and thus, Radio 1212 was "destroyed" during a hypothetical Allied bombing raid (which was then carefully broadcast during the regular transmission time).

In the decades following the Second World War, clandestines were operated by many groups. Their purposes and interests were as varied as might be imagined: from the clandestine Voice of Justice (Sawt al Haqq) which broadcast to Egypt, to Radio Rebelde which broadcast to Honduras; from the political leanings of the Radio for the Liberation of Great Russia to those of Radio Kemam, the Voice of the Free Malay Union. Most stations have utilized rather low transmitter power and have transmitted outside the normal bands allocated for broadcasting purposes.

The advent of the Cold War between the East and the West led to the establishment of several radio stations, some of which are still in operation today. One of the oldest stations is Radio España Independiente, operated by the exiled Spanish Communist Party. Widely heard on all continents, the station announces its mailing address as Box 359, Prague 1, Czechoslovakia. Verifications are virtually non-existent. Radio España Independiente announces its location as being "somewhere in the Pyrenees", though direction-finding equipment has led DXers to believe that its actual location is in Eastern Europe. Though the mailing address is in Prague, the station apparently does not broadcast from Czechoslovakia, for during the trouble with the Warsaw pact countries, in August 1968, when virtually all broadcasts from Czechoslovakia were erratic, Radio España Independiente held to its regular schedule. Heavily jammed, the station may be heard on several frequencies just outside the allocated bands between 1600 and 2300 GMT on 7690, 9430, 12140, 15505, and 17695 khz.

Yet another station transmitting to the Iberian peninsula is Radio Portugal Livre, a communist station which opposes the Portuguese government and spends a considerable amount of time attacking its policies in regards to the "Overseas Provinces". Direction-finding equipment has indicated that this station transmits from south-eastern Europe. There are no verifications known to exist, though a mailing address of 3 Rue Auber, Algiers, Algeria, has been announced.

Signals from Radio Portugal Livre are somewhat weaker than those of Radio España Independiente, and all facts point to the conclusion that the stations do not operate from the same transmitter site. Through the years, the station has utilized several frequencies for its transmissions. Although transmission times vary, a listener may tune to 7410, 8332, 9453, 11505, 11669, and 15505 during 1100-1130, 1900-1930, 2115-2145, and 2330-2350 GMT

Throughout the 1950s, many clandestine stations were operational in conjunction with political unrest and upheaval throughout the African and Latin American areas. During this time, revolutionary groups presented their political ideologies to the peoples within the country to which they broadcast primarily by the means of clandestine stations.

The Algerian struggle for independence had several of these stations. Radio Algerie Libre transmitted in French and Arabic at 2045 GMT on 6410 and 11539 khz. Radio Medea, which was believed to be within Algeria itself, operated from 1100 to 1315 GMT on 8865, 11194, and 11485. Finally, the most popular clandestine was Radio Free and Fighting Algeria, which operated during the late evening GMT, and signed off as 2305. The station utilized various frequencies between 6780 and 6983, and was also heard on 12070 khz.

There were many other stations operating during this period, though information regarding most of them is rather limited. The Algerian war for independence resulted in a host of stations, operated by the various factions attempting to gain control of the nation. The Paris government permitted Sawt Al Harr (the Voice of Freedom) to use their facilities on 9560, 15130, and 15245. The O.A.S. operated their outlet whenever the government station in Algiers could be sabotaged.

Sawt al Haqq (the Voice of Justice) was beamed to Egypt on 7211 (later 7070), 6421, and 968. The station transmitted in Arabic and opposed the Nasser government.

The Voice of Free Africa beamed anti-colonial programming to the African continent in many languages on 17890 khz up to 19 hours a day. The station supported national movements and stressed racial tensions as the great strength of the various freedom movements. Its location was believed to be either Cairo or one of the East European nations.

In the Americas, one of the most active clandestines was Radio Liberación, later called Radio

Rebelde, which broadcast to Honduras on 5910 from 0000 to 0400 GMT in Spanish with anti-government broadcasts. The name Radio Rebelde was used throughout the 1950s in various Latin American nations as a station identification for any revolutionary clandestine, whether the station was in Cuba, Honduras, Bolivia, or Nicaragua.

In a final historical note on the 1950s, one of the most famous operations was that of the Imre Nagy Radio, which broadcast from a west European nation after the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, on 5940, 6218, and 11708 kHz, from 1000 to 1400, and again from 1700 to 2100 GMT.

The 1960s brought a new group of clandestine operations, though the emphasis had shifted from Africa to the Far East area. Greater technological development had presented the masses of opportunity to obtain radios more easily than at any time in the past and thus, clandestine programming reached more of the people.

In this area, the Voice of Free Iranian broadcast anti-Dutch programs to Netherlands New Guinea on 7315. The station used several languages and its programming attacked Dutch colonial government and called for freedom of the "Irian" territory. It was believed that the station operated from a location within Indonesia, Radio Kemam, the Voice of the Free Malay Union, transmitted broadcasts on 7202 kHz from 1530 to 1630 GMT. The station was opposed to the Malayan government policies and called for independence from British rule.

During the early part of the decade, a great number of stations broadcast to the Soviet Union. Radio for the Liberation of Great Russia operated on 5990 and 9360 with anti-Communist programs in Russian from 0700-0730, 1100-1130, and from 1900-1930 GMT. Radio Kaukasus broadcast anti-Communist programmes to the area around the Soviet Republic of Georgia on 8726, 9531, and 11750 from a sign on time of 0215 GMT.

Finally, Radio Shqipëria Socialiste (Radio Socialist Albania) broadcast programs to Albania on 7150, 9663, and 11775 from 0900-0930, 1130-1200, 1530-1600, 1900-1930, 2100-2130, and from 2315-2130, and from 2315-2345 GMT. The station was pro-Communist but was anti-Stalinist and supported co-existence with the West. Direction-finding equipment indicated that the station was located in the Balkan area.

#### RECENT CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY

With the increasing world tensions in the latter part of the decade, several clandestines continued operation. These were joined by other stations who sought to exploit conflict to maximum effect. Many are well known to DXers and all have had an effect upon the area to which they have broadcast.

**EUROPE:** Both Radio España Independiente and Radio Portugal Livre are still active. Two stations currently beaming programs to the Soviet Union are Radio Free Russia and Radio Omega. Radio Free Russia is operated by Narodno Trudoyoi Soyuz (NTS), the National Alliance of Russian Solidarists. Beaming anti-communist "voice of the Americas" operates on 6350, 6424, 6787, 10714, and 11550 kHz (currently 6424 and 11550)

from 1030 to 1530, and again from 1730 to 2030 GMT. Radio Free Russia is operated by Russian exiles and seeking to overthrow the regime that has held power in the USSR for over 50 years.

NTS was founded in the summer of 1930 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, by a group of young Soviet refugees. During the Second World War, they worked with factions within the German military as a matter of convenience, though they were not a Nazi organization. The organization is staunchly anti-communist, and has an extensive non-broadcasting organization, with sabotage and espionage teams in the Soviet Union.

Radio Free Russia came on the air in December 1950 with a small homemade transmitter with a power of 38 watts. It was mounted on a small truck with barely enough room inside to stand. The first antennas were strung between trees, for the station had no poles or towers on which to erect an antenna system.

The station improved as the years went by and responding to an appeal, donations were received from all over the globe. By the spring of 1953, it was able to acquire its own generator and control equipment and shortly thereafter, the length of the broadcasts was increased. Though weak, the station states that their broadcasts have been received as far away as the Ural Mountains.

During the years between 1964-1966, Radio Free Russia programs were broadcast over Radio Libertad, the anti communist "voice of the Americas". These Russian programs were directed to Soviet personel in Cuba as well as to the Soviet fleet in the Atlantic Ocean.

Radio Free Russia has been quite co-operative with DXers over the years. The station will verify all correct reports of reception with an attractive QSL card. The card, pictured here, is green on a white background. The address of the station is NTS, 125 bis rue Blomet, Paris 15(e), France. The station may also be reached by Postbus 902, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Radio Omega is a religious clandestine station, probably the only one in existence. The station began operation on August 1, 1962, and broadcasts from 1515 to 1545 and from 2115 to 2145 GMT on 6350 and 11550 khz. The station is quite friendly and confirms correct reports with a card of verification. The card, pictured here, is a blue on a background of yellow. It is believed that the station uses the same transmitter facilities as Radio Free Russia. The mailing address is Radio Omega, P.O. Box 272, Antwerp, Belgium.

Radio Euzkadi, the voice of the Basque Underground, transmits programs to the Basque region of northern Spain. Radio Euzkadi calls for an independent Basque state, and is critical of the Spanish government's policies in the Basque area. The station first was heard in 1966 and continues to broadcast daily. Heavily jammed, the station transmits on variable frequencies, which are nominally 13250, 15040, and 15080, from 2030-2100, 2130-2200, and 2230-2300 GMT, daily in Basque. Radio Euzkadi claims to be operating from within the Basque area, but factual evidence disputes this claim. Frequencies used are too high for local coverage and it is highly doubtful that the

Spanish government would permit such a station to continue operation if it was on Spanish soil. Several factors lead to a belief that Euzkadi's transmitters are in the Caribbean area: the frequencies in use would propagate favourably between that area and northern Spain, and specific measurement of signal level on both sides of the Atlantic indicates that the transmitters are in the Western Hemisphere.

Radio Euzkadi is friendly to DXers and will verify correct reception reports with either a card or letter. The letter pictured here was received for reception during initial broadcasts of the station. The mailing address is B.P. 59, Poste Centrale, 75 Paris (16), France.

During the Warsaw Pact troop movements in August 1968 into Czechoslovakia, many small clandestine stations began operation on short and medium wave bands. Several were heard by DXers around the world. The most common announcement was that the listener tuned to "Legal Radio Prague", or something similar. During this momentous time, a DXer was able to follow virtually all that occurred within the Czechoslovak Republic. For a very short time after the movement, Radio Prague confirmed correct reception reports of these transmissions. Pictured with this article is a verification from "Free Radio Prague"; the date is the second day of the troop movement, while all of the normal broadcasts were discontinued. Broadcasts were heard by listeners on all normal Radio Prague outlets, both medium and shortwave. Announcements were in many languages including, Czech, Slovak, English, German, French, and Italian.

The Warsaw Pact countries attempted to counter these numerous broadcasters with jamming, which was quite ineffective, and by the use of two counter-clandestines, Radio Vitva, operated by Radio Berlin International on 1430 kHz and by the Worker's Voice of the Republic, which operated from 2300 to 0550 GMT on 1178, 1061, 7125, 7285, and 9450 kHz. During the discussions following the troop movement, Radio Vitva admitted that it was Radio Berlin International.

Two medium wave stations are currently operating from the German Democratic Republic, according to European DX sources, and they both are aimed at undermining public confidence in the German Federal Republic. The Deutscher Soldatensender, the German Soldiers' Station, operates on 935 kHz from 0515-0615, 1700-1745, 1915-1945, and from 2230-0025 GMT. While claiming to be operated from West Germany, the station is against NATO and the GFR's policies. The Deutscher Freiheitssender, the German Truth Station, operates on 904 kHz, and follows basically the same programming policy as the Soldiers' Station. The station is scheduled to operate from 0330-0500, 1800-1900, and 2000-2130 GMT.

Recently, a station calling itself Radio Free Greece began test transmissions to Greece from a point two to three hundred miles from Malta aboard the *S.S. Hebe*. The station utilized 15070, and all programs were in Greek. Backed by a Canadian group, the station opposes the Greek military government. The address for reports was listed as Radio Free Greece, 8 Esterbrooke Avenue, No. 22,

Willowdale, Ontario, Canada. The station plans to return to the air with a more powerful transmitter. Initial broadcasts were heavily jammed by the Greek government.

*LATIN AMERICA:* From November 1961, a station announcing as Radio Libertad, the anti-Communist "voice of the Americas", was heard throughout North and South America. Radio Libertad, which is currently inactive, transmitted anti-Communist programs in Spanish to the Americas. Combining these programs with light orchestral music, the station attracted many listeners. An occasional English program could be heard, though very rarely. Programs in Russian were aired from Radio Free Russia for Soviet personnel in Cuba during the period 1964-66.

The station's mailing addresses given over the air in a bilingual announcement were various "Post Office Box" numbers in Miami and later Miami Beach, Florida, USA, and P.O. Box 5650E, Caracas, Venezuela. While all of the addresses in Florida were false, the Caracas address was an actual address. During the summer of 1968, Radio Libertad issued a few cards of verification to a handful of DXers. It is believed that less than ten of these were issued, though it is possible that other might exist. The card, pictured here, is black on white. On the reverse, the power of the 15050 kHz outlet is given as 5 kilowatts.

Radio Libertad broadcast from a site believed to be in Venezuela, though this was never confirmed by the station. Several factors indicate that this conclusion is valid, ranging from the note that Radio Libertad was silent for several months after a very strong earthquake created quite a bit of destruction within Venezuela, to extensive direction-finding in 1967. Further, many of the station's Spanish newscasts had news concerning Venezuela. The location of the transmitter site was certainly not Caracas, for this would have been too easy to trace and secrecy was desired, such publicity would have been most unwelcome. From a letter of verification signed by Mrs. Consuelo de Izaguirre, it was learned that the administrative headquarters for Radio Libertad was in the eastern zone of the city of Caracas. The postmark on the reply was "Estafeta Gallipan", the Gallipan postal station, in the Venezuelan state of Miranda. It was later discovered that Gallipan is a large office building on the east side of Caracas, where the capital sprawls out of the federal district into the adjoining state of Miranda.

The Gallipan Building is located on the broad Avenida Francisco de Miranda and serves as the post office for the eastern districts of Caracas. Radio Libertad's post office box is located in this same building.

Radio Libertad evidently had several transmitters, because up to three frequencies were at one time noted in parallel operation by the author. Through the decade, many frequencies were in use; however, during the last few years of its existence, the station transmitted on 17640, 15050, 11865, 9340, 7305, 6750, 6240, 5650, 5100, 4000 and 3390 kHz. All frequencies were subject to change. Two medium wave frequencies were in use from time to time: 1505 and 1406 kHz. Rarely heard

outside the Caribbean area, they were evidently of low power.

In the final days of its existence, Radio Libertad mailed out the QSL card pictured here from: DYTA, Apartado 20.064 z.p. 5, Caracas, Venezuela. According to a study done, DYTA is a Spanish acronym for a firm located in the eastern districts of Caracas.

**NORTH AMERICA:** During 1967 and 1968, a station was heard in the eastern portion of the United States announcing as Radio Free Harlem. While it was obviously an amateur radio transmitter being used by a group, programming consisted of music, commentaries, and interviews. The station operated on 3868 khz, and was on the air until 0535 GMT. The station announced that it was unauthorized by the Federal Communications Commission, which is the radio regulatory board in the USA, and had an input power of 15 Kilowatts. The mailing address was announced as being Grand Central Station, New York City. Radio Free Harlem broadcast programs against government policies. No verifications are known to exist.

**ASIA:** Many stations have been operated with programs beamed to Asia, and in the latter part of the decade, this activity continued. In the Yemen, the Royalists operate a clandestine station against the Republican government in Sanaa. All programming is in Arabic, and broadcasts oppose the government and Egyptian influence in the Yemen. Believed to be located in a cave near Idda (on the Saudi Arabian border), the station transmits with 5000 watts on 9976, 7400, and 4988 kHz; its time of sign-off is 2030 GMT. It is interesting to note that history has repeated itself with this station. XGOY, which was located in China during World War II, also operated from a cave which served to protect it against Japanese aerial attacks. The Yemeni station announces as "Idhaat Al-Mamlakah Al-Mutawakiliyah Al-Yamanniyah".

One of the most widely heard clandestines in Radio Peyk-e-Iran, the Iranian Herald, which transmits to Iran and opposes the Imperial government. Peyk-e-Iran transmits its broadcasts in Farsi (Persian), Kurdish, and Azerbaijani from 1430 to 1810 GMT on 11695, 11440, and 9560 kHz. It announces its mailing address as TUDEN, Box 4176, Stockholm 4, Sweden, which is the address of the Iranian Communist Party. The station does not normally issue verifications, at least until the time of this writing, and the letter of verification pictured here is unique, for it is the only known verification to have ever been issued. Though the report was sent to Stockholm, the verification was dispatched from West Berlin. Direction-finding has suggested that the transmitter site is in south-eastern Europe, though the station has never announced its actual location. Peyk-e-Iran has a communistic view on events and has placed great importance on the Kurdish people's desire to gain independence from Iran.

Yet another Iranian clandestine operates on 11695. It is called the Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan, though it is too weak to be heard outside the Middle East area. The station actually is operated by the Kurdish minority and it is located in northern Iran

or Iraq. It calls for the independence of the Kurdish peoples and has no connection with the more powerful Peyk-e-Iran.

Saut-ul-Sha'abi Iraqi, the Voice of the Iraqi People, broadcast in Arabic and Kurdish to Iraq until February 26, 1968. The station was against the government then in power and broadcast daily from 1400 to 1430 and from 1810 to 1840 GMT on 11695, 11440, and 9560. It was believed that the station utilized the same transmitters as Peyk-e-Iran, for there was no break in the carrier when the programming changed from Saut-ul-Sha'abi Iraqi to that of Peyk-e-Iran. In its last broadcast, the station announced that it was ceasing transmission and indicated it would not return to the air. The following message was heard, "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 . . . seized power in our country on February 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 . . ."

While the Voice of the Iraqi People broadcast, a jamming station was employed against it. Believed to be located within Iraq, the station transmitted a musical selection continuously. Some of the selections used included "Kiss Me Honey", "My Blue Heaven", "Eso Beso", and "Can't Buy Me Love". No verifications are known but the jammer operated on all frequencies used by the Voice of the Iraqi People. Interestingly, the station halted its jamming when Peyk-e-Iran began service.

**FAR EAST:** Many clandestines have operated throughout the years in the Far East area. Most are of low power and are rarely heard outside the immediate area; however a number have employed higher powered transmitters and have been heard by DXers on all continents. The Voice of the Patriotic Militiamen's Front, announcing as "Day la Tieng Noi cua Mat Tran Dan Quan Ai Quoc", broadcasts daily on 1537 (replacing 995), 7216, and 9443 kHz from 0500-0700, 0900-1000, and from 1400 to 1600 GMT. The Voice of the Patriotic Militiamen's Front claims to be a "peoples' secret station" operating in North Vietnam. The station is against United States involvement in South Vietnam, calls on the US to stop "barbaric bombings" of the Vietnamese population, but also attacks the North Vietnamese government for aggression in South Vietnam. The station also "aims at liberating North Vietnam from Chinese domination, putting an end to an unjust war in South Vietnam, and has a long range target to build an independent, democratic and prosperous Vietnam, including all strata of

people and men in the Communist ranks who are dissatisfied with Communist present policy. The front fights old and new style colonialism, demands all interventionist forces get out of Vietnam territory, demands the Hanoi regime hold peace talks and denounces the plot of China to foster war all over the world so as to dominate South-east Asian countries”.

No verifications are known and the station operates only in Vietnamese. The interval signal consists of drums and cymbals followed by a Vietnamese folk tune. It is believed that the station may be operated in northern South Vietnam by Allied forces. During its initial broadcasts, the stations announced as “Guom Thieng Ai Quoc”, the Sacred Sword of Patriotism.

Liberation Radio, the Voice of the Republic of South Vietnam (Gia Phong Radio), is operated by the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front and transmits programs in Vietnamese, French and English. The station opposes United States presence in South Vietnam, calls for the removal of all forces from Vietnam, victory for the Viet Cong forces, and independence for South Vietnam. With powerful transmitters, Liberation Radio is easily heard on 7414, 10070, 12100, and 15048 kHz from almost any location. In early 1970, Radio Peking presented Liberation Radio with five new transmitters. The station will confirm correct reception reports by letter as illustrated here. Reports are accepted via Mr. Pham Van Chuong, Press Attache, Front National de Liberation du Su Vietnam, Nekazanka 7, Prague 1, Czechoslovakia.

Suara Indonesia Bebas, the Free Voice of Indonesia, was directed against the Sukarno government in Djakarta. This anti-Communist, anti-Sukarno station operated on 6060 kHz from a location near Tjiandjur in West Java. All programming was in Indonesian and the transmission time was around 0900 to 1100 GMT.

The Voice of the People of Thailand, Sathanni Vithayu Sieng Prachaon Hang Prathat Thai, is operated by the Thai National Liberation Front, and is beamed to Thailand from a location believed to be in Yenan province, China. The station operates on 9423 and 6035 kHz. Broadcasts are in Thai and oppose the Thai government and United States presence in Thailand. Though the schedule has varied through the many years of the station's existence (it has been on the air for seven years), a transmission is currently aired from 1000 GMT.

Radio Pathet Lao, Withayu Kachai Siang Kana Pathet Lao, is a Communist clandestine operating for Laos on 4660, 6200, and 7480, with standby frequencies of 7315 and 8630. The station beams anti-government programs and praises the accomplishments of the Pathet Lao forces. The station has been noted between 0000 and 0200 and again from 1300 to 1600, although this is not a complete schedule.

Radio of the Patriotic Neutralist Forces operates on 4700, 5870, 6230, and 8600 in Lao. The station has been noted from as early as 1200 to sign off at 1700 GMT.

Many other clandestine stations are in operation today, like that of the Khmère Free Radio to Cambodia, and yet other stations permit their facilities to be used by organizations, such as A Voz de Libertad over the Algerian Radio. The listener is presented, by the means of radio, with a view of the psychological warfare being waged today. It's worth the time to listen a bit more carefully when tuning the international broadcasting bands.

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The QSLs from Liberation Radio and Radio Omega are the property of the renowned Canadian DXer, Gregg A. Calkin.

