

RADIO FREE RUSSIANarodno Trudovi Soyuz (N.T.S.)

Tuning your radio to the shortwaves, 26.0 and 46.7 meters (6.4 and 11.55 mc/s.) you hear an irritating, bubbling, rattling noise. The noise diminishes when you move the dial slightly to the right or left, and you are able to distinguish Russian. The speakers will be heard distinctly for a few minutes only to be drowned again in this unknown jamming. From the speaker you will become acquainted with the name of this unidentified station... "This is N.T.S. The National Alliance of Russian Solidarists speaking. You are listening to Radio Free Russia. Long live freedom!"

The policies of the station are given in their fact book as follows: "Radio Free Russia discloses the errors of communist ideology and reveals the political crimes of the communist regime. The radio calls upon the people to fight and overthrow the regime, indicating the methods to be adopted under dictatorial circumstances. It outlines the political future of Russia based on freedom, solidarity, justice, law, peace and friendship with the peoples of the world. It broadcasts the political news which the communist leaders prefer to silence. The independent voice of Radio Free Russia is guided solely by the interests of the Russian people."

The National Alliance of Russian Solidarists (NTS) was founded back in the summer of 1930 at Belgrade, Yugoslavia, by a group of young Soviet refugees. During WW-II, they worked intermittently with factions of the German military. NTS was not a Nazi organization as the Nazi's considered the Slavic peoples "subhuman."

Radio Free Russia came on the air in December 1950 over a small, homemade transmitter with a power of 38 watts. It was mounted on a small truck with barely enough room inside to stand. Having no poles for antennas, they had to be strung on trees. An this was all the equipment. There were no vital spare parts, no winter clothes for the operators, there was a lack of many things.

As the years went by, the station improved. Responding to its appeal, donations came from every corner of the globe. By spring 1953, it was able to acquire its own generator and control equipment. The personnel expanded; and an editorial committee and a radio studio

were organized and the station increased the number of its broadcasts. From the very beginning though, the communist government has sought to eliminate the voice by jamming and other more drastic methods. One of these was sabotage. In the summer of 1958, ignoring the exact place of the transmitter (it constantly changes its place of transmission), they left a bomb in a building occupied by the monitoring stations and families of the operating personnel. The explosion caused most of the building to be destroyed but luckily it caused no personal tragedies.

Although the Russian government spends millions of rubles annually to jam Radio Free Russia, its message is being received according to the fact book. It says, "It is heard and understood as far away as the Ural Mts. and the work camps of the 'virgin lands'. This has been confirmed by those who have been able to return from Soviet imprisonment, by tourists and sailors as well as from the letters from Russia which do slip through."

Inside the control equipment truck, each transmitter has an oscillograph where the jamming is seen. At the far end of a small graph screen there is illuminated a green line. As soon as the broadcast starts, a little wave shoots up from the green line representing the transmission wave. After a few minutes, others appear representing the jamming waves. After a second, some of these move up to the transmission wave, others spring upon it, like a dog upon a cat. Some will be waiting still.

"27th--60 left," orders the operator. And the transmission wave changes its position into a free space between the jamming waves. This is repeated endlessly. Witnessing an air combat means aching eyes from the flashing screen and a head throbbing from the continuous commands. On coming out from the cabin around you are sleepy vales and twinkling village lights. But beyond, for hundreds of thousands of kilometers is the battlefield of the invisible but fierce struggle between the message of freedom and the Iron Curtain.

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RADIO FREE RUSSIA (Continued) - Future plans call for greater things. One of the leaders said: "A desolate area of Europe has been rented for erection of a permanent radio station. The station will have enough power to overcome the jamming. Up to now, the station has fulfilled, so to speak, a tactical role. We are now facing the important problem of transforming it into a strategic weapon for the cause of freedom in Russia. The radio will be listened to by millions of people and will arouse great masses. This can be accomplished if its power is increased eight or ten times with 24 hour transmissions. Large sums of money are needed for this purpose. We cannot count on any government subsidies, so we make an appeal to all people of good will who understand the struggle against communism."

Presently, the station lacks a permanent base and still is on wheels. It has to search for unpopulated districts for its work, hide from the police and curious

passers-by, carefully taking the necessary precautions against a possible attack from the enemy. (Ed. The station is operating from West Germany. It is doubtful any station could be operated in this manner without the tacit approval of the government on whose soil it is located) It still lacks certain necessary equipment, cannot afford night transmissions and is not powerful enough to overcome the jamming entirely.

According to Radio Free Russia's fact book, all correspondence should be sent to Postbus 902, Rotterdam, Netherlands. However, verifications have been received via M. Nick Bevad, 125 bis rue Blomet, Paris 15^e, France. Another address sometimes given is Postbox 4111, Frankfurt, Germany. Radio NRS will verify with a green and white card showing two trucks with telescoping antennae masts on the roof.

The NRS organization also has Russian language programs broadcast over the Latin American clandestine, Radio Libertad.