

Frigon said, meant that:

In prosecuting the Cold War...the CBC-IS...should...win over the waverers in countries where the battle is more clearly joined, bring over to our side the neutrals, and get the better of our opponents....<sup>12</sup>

While the CBC-IS promoted the delusion that the US-led “free world” was a beacon of democracy, it hypocritically waged propaganda wars that interfered in Western Europe’s elections. This subversion of democracy was most aggressive in countries where voters threatened to vote communists into power. To avoid such perceived disasters, the department dictated how CBC-IS propaganda warriors should tailor their broadcasts to swing the vote in “countries with large communist parties like France and Italy.” CBC propaganda aimed at such countries, said Heeney, had to “show proud peoples what happens when native communists seize the reins of power and then immediately transfer them to the Kremlin’s iron grasp...” CBC-IS broadcasts to Italy and France, Heeney insisted, had to include messages that “strive constantly to identify com-

munism as an instrument of Soviet imperialism” and “unmask the hypocrisy of communist ‘democracy’ in elections, trade unions, labour camps, religion, etc. and the hypocrisy of Soviet peace propaganda.”<sup>13</sup>

In 1950, the US and UK asked Canada to join them in aiming Russian-language propaganda at the USSR. The Foreign Affairs’ report (*Psychological Warfare: CBC-IS Russian Service*) said broadcasts would show “the good in our way of life and the evil in the Soviet way.” The stated goal was “undermining the morale, faith and determination of the people of the Soviet Union who actively or passively support Soviet policies.”

Another goal was to tell the war-weary USSR (which had just lost 27 million cit-



izens in defeating Nazism) “that they cannot hope to win a new world war.” If this threat was not enough, Foreign Affairs told CBC-IS to warn that “the Soviet regime (and its attendant satellite regimes)” would be “solely responsible for war should it come.” Ironically, the department’s good-vs-evil tirades were also aimed at “convincing the Russians ... of our peaceful, unaggressive purpose.”<sup>14</sup>

Foreign Affairs’ directives also linked Christianity to the other “general lines” of propaganda that the CBC-IS was told to follow. In a 1951 speech to parliament, Pearson, now Foreign Minister, quoted department guidelines that CBC-IS broadcasts should be keeping alive and if possible increasing a knowledge of and appreciation of democracy, the code of ethics we have derived from Christianity and western civilization and thought.<sup>15</sup>

## US Big Brother to Canada’s Cold War propagandists: ‘Voice of America’ and the CIA’s ‘Radio Free Europe’ and ‘Radio Liberation from Bolshevism’ (aka ‘Radio Liberty’)

During the Cold War, America’s three largest overseas propaganda venues were Voice of America (VOA), Radio Free Europe (RFE) and Radio Liberty (RL). These mass media outlets are still active today, avidly pushing US geopolitical and corporate interests, including wars, invasions and regime change operations.

During the Cold War, these networks pushed US-government propaganda under the guise of advocating democracy, human rights and truth. They

still do. But only the VOA was truthful enough to admit it was state financed. Beginning in 1942 under the Office of War Information, the VOA now has a US\$200-million budget and broadcasts its propaganda in 45 languages to 270 million people per week.<sup>1</sup>

The RFE and RL began in 1949 as covert creatures of the CIA. Funding was funnelled through one of the CIA’s many front groups, the National Committee for a Free Europe. (See p.18.) This was revealed in the late 1960s but continued until 1972 when Congress began covering its budget. Still proud of its role in the Cold War, the RFE/RL’s website now brags that the “news and information” it aimed at “audiences behind the Iron Curtain,” “played a significant role in the collapse of communism....”<sup>2</sup>

While the state-owned VOA has always broadcast globally, the RFE targeted people in communist Eastern Europe, and RL focused its psychological warfare against Soviet citizens. RL’s original name was, quite aptly, “Radio Liberation from Bolshevism.” After some controversy this was changed in 1963. Former RFE/RL president Sig Mickelson explained why, saying the network’s or-

ganisers “seemed unaware that ‘Bolshevism’ had been Hitler’s favorite term of disparagement for the Soviet Union.”<sup>3</sup> As US media professor Christopher Simpson pointed out:

The Soviet government lost no time in pointing out the rhetorical similarity between Radio Liberation’s broadcasts and those of the Nazis as well as the fact that a number of easily identified Nazi collaborators were working for the station.<sup>4</sup>

Using the word “Bolshevism, a term favored by Nazi propagandists in the Ukraine ... turned into an embarrassment.” RFE/RL was “eventually forced to ban the use of the term *Bolshevism* in their news broadcasts because of its unmistakable association with Nazi propaganda in the minds of European[s].”<sup>5</sup>

This change did not stop the far-right CIA front group running RFE/RL from using other forms of vilification used by the Nazis. Its biggest propaganda campaign in the 1950s, “Crusade for Freedom,” employed Ronald Reagan as its spokesman. With slogans like “Help truth fight communism” and “This world under God shall have a new birth of freedom” they used every dirty trick in the CIA toolkit. This global “Crusade” was the brainchild of Frank Wisner, the CIA’s Chief of Covert Action. By 1951, Wisner was in charge of all of the Agency’s clandestine operations worldwide. (See p.51.)

During WWII, Wisner had worked for the CIA’s precursor, the Office of Strategic Services, and headed its secret operations in the Balkans. This led to his Cold War duties for the CIA, which included: (1) Recruiting Nazis and their fascist East European allies to continue fighting communism through new careers in the CIA, (2) Creating the CIA’s vast RFE/RL propaganda network, and (3) Leading “Project Mockingbird,” a CIA effort that co-opted reporters and editors to spread right-wing disinformation through many global mass-media outlets.<sup>6</sup> Referring to these assets as his “Mighty Wurlitzer,”<sup>7</sup> Wisner targeted nonstop CIA propaganda at the Allies’ strongest WWII partner, and biggest Cold War enemy, ie., the USSR.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
FOR A  
FREE EUROPE



WEAPON  
in the struggle  
for freedom

## Using Ukraine as a wedge to divide and conquer the enemy

To promote their Cold War objectives, Foreign Affairs and CBC-IS worked closely with Canada's anticommunist Ukrainian émigré groups which still revere Nazi collaborators as WWII heroes.

In 1951, to prepare for beaming Ukrainian-language propaganda at Soviet citizens, the CBC-IS sent Walter Schmolka to meet top officials at the Voice of America (VOA) in New York. Schmolka, who had overseen the CBC-IS's Czech broadcasts since their inception, reported that the VOA stressed "the general fight for freedom and the struggle against Communism."<sup>16</sup> Elbietta Olechowska, a media scholar at the University of Warsaw, noted that Schmolka assumed that the CBC-IS

should adopt holus-bolus the VOA program policy, without a single question being asked or a single doubt expressed about its suitability for Canada.<sup>17</sup>

In assessing how to wage a "political war" against the USSR, senior Foreign Affairs staffer Robert Mackay wrote that "Canada's large Ukrainian community

would provide good propaganda material." He also noted the suggestion of an age-old, divide-and-conquer tactic. "One of the best ways of working for and securing peace," he said, "would be to break up the Soviet Union into a large number of successor states; Ukrainian nationalism was deserving of support with this in mind."<sup>18</sup>

MacKay also noted the idea that an "effective means" of opposing the USSR was to "appeal to those Soviet minorities ... above all the Ukrainians, who were already conducting underground resistance to Muscovite Russian rule."<sup>19</sup>

On August 8, 1951, department officials advised Foreign Minister Pearson to approve the CBC-IS's Ukrainian-language broadcasts, and on the next day he agreed.

Throughout this process, External Affairs was in touch with far-right Ukrainian groups eager to help the CBC-IS with anti-Soviet broadcasts. Leading this charge was the Canadian League for the Liberation of Ukraine, renamed the League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC) in 1991. It still represents Stepan Bandera's faction of the fascist Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists

**"One of the best ways of working for and securing peace, would be to break up the Soviet Union into a large number of successor states; Ukrainian nationalism was deserving of support with this in mind."**

**Robert Mackay, 1951.  
Senior bureaucrat, Dep't of External Affairs**

within the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC). The UCC is the umbrella group for anticommunist Ukrainians created by Mackenzie King's government in 1940.

In 1951, the League collected 12,000 signatures on a petition and urged readers of its pro-Bandera *Ukrainian Echo* to lobby government officials to fund Ukrainian-language programs attacking the USSR. The CBC-IS asked LUC and similar Ukrainian émigré groups and their churches to suggest who should run the new Ukrainian-language division. For input, Pearson consulted John Decore, a far-right Ukrainian-Canadian Member of Parliament.<sup>20</sup>

In his 1981 MA thesis on the CBC-IS "as a psychological instrument of Canadian foreign policy," lawyer and law pro-

RFE/RL has always aided the careers of select journalists. For example, in 1990, as the USSR's destruction neared, a young Chrystia Freeland (now deputy PM), and former RFE/RL employee David Marples (now a Univ. of Alberta prof.), interviewed a founder of Rukh, Ukraine's separatist movement. Freeland, then an exchange student meddling in Ukraine's Soviet elections, had this RFE/RL interview published in *Ukrainian Weekly*. This US paper has run thousands of RFE/RL stories and promoted Ukrainian Waffen SS vets as war heroes. Later, RFE/RL printed the Freeland/Marples piece in one of its journals and one of its books. (See pp.57-58, 59.)

By about 1990, Hungarian-born US billionaire George Soros was funding Ukrainian dissidents. Seeking advice on this, Soros consulted Freeland in Kiev, taking advantage of her extensive involvement in the Soviet Ukraine's separatist movement. (See p.56) This began their decades-long collaboration.

After rising through the Kremlin-bashing mass media, Freeland became Justin Trudeau's Russophobic foreign minister in 2017. Meanwhile, Soros funded Ukraine's 2004 "Orange Revolution" which put a corrupt pro-NATO government in office. A decade later, he helped finance the Maidan coup which empowered a regime "riddled with explicit anti-semites and self-proclaimed neo-Nazis."<sup>28</sup>

Now financed by private sources, most notably George Soros' Open Society Foundations, RFE/RL propaganda continues to champion US government policies and corporate interests. With 600+ employees and an annual budget of US\$124 million, the RFE/RL now broadcasts in 26 languages and says it reaches an audience of 34 million/week.<sup>9</sup> While the RFE/RL's Cold War propaganda made frequent reference to the "Free World" and the so-called "Subjugated" or "Captive Nations" of the USSR, (see pp.18-20) these phrases have been replaced by the Soros Foundations mantras about "Open Societies" and "Unfree Societies." But now that America's new Cold War with Russia has taken hold, the main target of US/NATO propaganda still remains Moscow's Kremlin.

Because of their meddling in civil society and elections, the

Soros-funded foundations have faced censure in Serbia, Macedonia and Turkey. Soros Foundations have been banned in Hungary and Russia. In 2015, Russia's Office of the Prosecutor General called these Soros groups "a threat to the foundations of the constitutional system of the Russian Federation and the security of the state."<sup>10</sup>

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Spawned by the CIA in 1949, RFE/RL employed fascists including Nazi collaborators from Eastern Europe, who were eager to continue their war against communism and the Soviets