

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....¹²

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.”¹³

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.”¹⁴

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.¹⁵

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.¹

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....”²

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.”³ As US media professor Christopher Simpson pointed out:

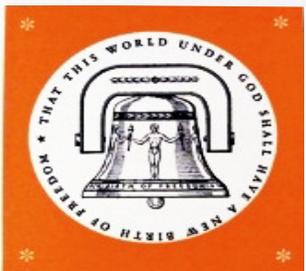
The Soviet government lost no time in pointing out the rhetorical similarity between Radio Liberation’s broadcasts and those of the Nazis as well as the fact that a number of easily identified Nazi collaborators were working for the station.⁴

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].”⁵

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.⁶ Referring to these assets as his “Mighty Wurlitzer,”⁷ Wisner targeted nonstop CIA propaganda at the Allies’ strongest WWII partner, and biggest Cold War enemy, ie., the USSR.

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