

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of RIAS, February 7, 1951, Mayor Reuter stated:

"... RIAS broadcasts have become an integral part of Berlin life, which is hardly conceivable without it (RIAS)...."

"Die Welt", 7 Feb 1951:

"... As the "Voice of Freedom" for the island of Berlin and the Soviet Zone RIAS plays an extraordinary role in the fight against Eastern terror and tyranny."

"Berliner Anzeiger", 6 Feb 1951:

"The 'Radio in the American Sector' is called upon to perform an important task: it is the connecting link between the Germans on either side of the Iron Curtain."

"Depesche", 7 Feb 1951:

"If it is considered proper to measure the significance of a radio station by the amount of hatred extended by its opponents, then RIAS, which celebrates its fifth anniversary today, has achieved a rare degree of fame..."

Professor Reuter, Mayor of Berlin, at the opening of the new 20 kw short-wave transmitter on 8 Aug, 1951:

"From now on we have another opportunity to bring the truth to our oppressed countrymen in the Soviet controlled zone and to those peoples who have been robbed of their freedom on the other side of the Iron Curtain."

#### The Soviet German Anti-RIAS Campaigns

During the last seven years the Communist organs of the Soviet Zone and the Soviet Sector of Berlin have expended an incalculable amount of news space and air time in attacks upon RIAS. The station's staff have happily accepted the Communist slogan "RIAS is worse than cyanide" as a house motto. It sums up our opponent's estimate of our effectiveness, of which he is certainly the best judge.

The stories and comments from Communist sources reproduced here give a fair picture of Communist concern with RIAS broadcasts. What they do not reveal is that among RIAS's regular listeners are Communist functionaries on all levels. Reliable visitors from the Soviet Zone have reported the fact again and again. In some towns of the Zone, meetings of the Socialist Unity Party or other Communist organizations cannot be started as early in the evening as the leaders wish. Until 8.00 p.m., too many members are listening to the nightly program "Berlin Speaks to the Zone." Prior to the severance of Soviet Sector telephone connections, RIAS staff members tested these reports by telephoning, under false names, prominent leaders of the Soviet German regime and expressing concern over something just broadcast. The usual response was positive. For instance, on October 5, 1950, a member of the RIAS Political Department telephoned State Secretary Wunderlich at his East Berlin home. Announcing himself as vice-chairman of a Soviet Sector "peace committee," the staff member asked Wunderlich if he had heard RIAS's special broadcasts calling on East Berliners to take part in the ration-card balloting for all-Berlin elections. Wunderlich's reply was: "Yes, yes, we're all listening to the broadcasts. Tomorrow we will discuss what to do about them."

A political refugee recently wrote: "For three years I was a member of the Liberal Democratic Party and mayor of a small town in the Soviet Zone. At 1230 and 1930 (hours of two important RIAS newscasts) everyone sat by the radio receiver. Even SED meetings could not be scheduled before 2000 hours. At a meeting of the National Front our State Councillor declared, 'I know you all listen to RIAS. It complicates our work a great deal.'"

#### Anti - RIAS Press Campaign

"Volksstimme", Magdeburg, September 22, 1952:

The "Volksstimme" reports on the trials against agents and spies: "In public discussions the population has shown its contempt for RIAS criminals and agents and a resolution was adopted calling for the enlightenment of neighbors about the infamous lies."