

participating. In the course of the festival more than 1,500,000 youngsters, in spite of discouragement of all sorts, crossed the sectoral borders and more than 13,000 of them visited RIAS to tell of their needs and ask for advice and assistance. They were received and entertained in the largest RIAS studio and enthusiastically listened to popular RIAS programs and dance music of the West, forbidden in the Soviet Zone. The youngsters also had the opportunity to listen to, meet, and ask questions of Mr. John J. McCloy, US High Commissioner, Dr. Kurt Schumacher, Chairman of the SPD, Jakob Kaiser, Federal Minister for All-German Affairs, and many other political personalities.

A 17-year-old FDJ member best summed up the feelings of the visitors in stating "Here in this radio station we are really human beings. Here we can say what we think and not what has been hammered into us in our zone!"

Example of Minor Campaign Indicating Effectiveness
of RIAS Youth Broadcasts

In February, 1952, the Central Council of the FDJ became aware of a growing apathy and lethargy in the ranks of its followers caused by an overconcentration on political indoctrination and training. In order to stimulate FDJ members and instil them with new spirit, the Central Council called for criticism and self-criticism and, after purges of some functionaries, proceeded to announce publicly the new slogan of "joyful youth activities" with programs of sports, games and dancing. Notwithstanding this announcement, political indoctrination continued to take up the major part of the FDJ programs.

RIAS then picked up the slogan of "joyful youth activities" in five broadcasts directed to Soviet Zone youth, suggesting that only such chairmen be elected locally as would implement programs of sports, games and dancing.

"If the Central Council (of the FDJ) in its criticism talks of ever decreasing basic units, it confirms the possibilities which you have been able to realize following the Youth Festival. And if the council now publicly demands the introduction of the 'joyful youth activities'

program with sports, games and dancing, it only proves how the situation has deteriorated. You can take the wind out of the sails of the Central Council by electing such local chairman as will really represent your interests."

The result of this type of broadcast, which continued through March, was that 8000 newly elected local FDJ chairmen were not confirmed by the Central Council and were labeled "unreliable." Large-scale protests did finally lead to their confirmation and to an item in "Junge Welt" (central organ of the FDJ):

"American sabotage officers are trying to hinder the work of our basic units by encouraging sports, games and dancing through their youth broadcasts. We must fight such poison."

The FDP Convention, November, 1952

On the occasion of the Free Democratic Party Convention RIAS carried excerpts and reviews of the proceedings. - Franz Blücher, Deputy Chancellor of the Federal Republic and chairman of the FDP, acknowledged RIAS's part by stating:

"I feel the need to express my heartiest thanks for your generous understanding and the objective manner in which you reported the convention of the FDP in Bad Ems"