

WHAT RIAS SAYS

RIAS is on the air 24 hours a day. 29% of this time is devoted to straight news, politics and other broadcasts predominantly political in nature. The scripts translated for reproduction here are merely samples of a large output. They reflect the content of standing broadcasts only, not of the station's unusually heavy production of special broadcasts, political cabaret, and on-the-spot coverage of major events.

Broadcasts to the Soviet Zone

On May 6, 1949, RIAS began a regular twice-weekly, 15-minute program called "Broadcast for Central Germany" (Sendung für Mitteldeutschland). With its warnings against Soviet agents and up-to-date news from the Zone, it was an immediate success. In 1950 it was expanded frequently, until it was on the air for 15 minutes every night but Sunday, at the Zone's best listening hour (1945), and was repeated twice in daylight hours. On October 16, 1950, it was expanded again, in response to listener demand. Under the title "Berlin Speaks to the Zone" ("Berlin spricht zur Zone") - which became necessary when RIAS increased its power to cover all the German East - a new broadcast is presented daily, in addition to five other daily political broadcasts for the Soviet Zone.

Recent examples of "Berlin Speaks to the Zone"

Sample commentary by Martin Koch in "Berlin Speaks to the Zone", August 18, 1952:

" Good evening!

It is an old story that the Communist newspapers devote very little space to reports on what is really happening in the Soviet Zone, the daily struggle for mere existence, the tensions and the real developments - of which there are plenty. Only now and then, when it becomes absolutely necessary, they will lift the curtain of newspapers, banners and placards making up the tissue of propaganda hiding the real facts. Usually such a move prepares the way for certain intentions for which the Communists are preparing the way. Either the system wants to show you that after all it knows what is going