

RESPONSE TO SPECIAL BROADCASTS, EAST AND WEST

Campaign against Soviet Zone concentration camps:

Former Soviet concentration camp inmate: "You were foremost among those who worked for us, who took up the cause of humanity.... And it is thanks to your intensive aid that the light of a new day will find us free men again."

Anonymous, Soviet Zone, January, 1950: "In the prison we were able to hear RIAS once in a while. I must tell you that on long, anxious days you were a powerful support to us and that your broadcasts gave many despairing men new hope for the future and a belief in freedom."

Anonymous, Soviet Zone, March 8, 1950: "Your active and fearless protests, repeated again and again for all the world to hear, have helped bring about the release of many thousands of prisoners."

G.K., Berlin-Neukölln, March 13, 1950: "Nine days ago I had the great luck to leave the Buchenwald internment camp, near Goethe's Weimar.... Among those who cared about us, who intervened for humanity, was RIAS. Please accept my warmest thanks for your courageous intervention. Gratitude and greetings from a new faithful listener."

The Berlin May Day Rally

Berlin's annual May Day rally is attended by hundreds of thousands of East and West Berliners, who come to demonstrate to the world Berlin's determination to remain free. RIAS's part in getting out these great gatherings has been acknowledged in such statements as these:

"I am sure that the leaders of the demonstration would never have gotten the crowd out without RIAS to help them. I heard many leading Germans express their admiration for the effectiveness with which your radio station operated at this important time."

- Major General Maxwell D. Taylor  
US Commander in Berlin

"I feel personally obligated to thank all the RIAS staff for the extraordinary cooperation which you gave the Berlin population and us (the city officials) in preparation for the May Day rally."

- Ernst Reuter  
Lord Mayor of Berlin

"All organizations represented in the Berlin May Committee 1950 were delighted by the superior assistance given by RIAS. Through this energetic aid, RIAS has contributed greatly toward the creation of a democratic conviction and toward making this year's May Day rally, the largest one ever in Berlin, a great success."

- Stefan Hoyzer  
Independent Trade Union  
Organization of Berlin

The FDJ Rally, Berlin, May, 1950:

"Volksstimme," Magdeburg, April 8, 1950: "RIAS, with lies and distortions, is trying to frighten parents into keeping their children from going to Berlin."

"Freiheit," Halle, April 11, 1950: "Vicious inflammatory speeches over RIAS .... have had such an influence on many parents that they are forbidding their sons and daughters to participate in the Whitsun meeting."

"Volksstimme," Sachsen, April 23, 1950: "RIAS .... cannot be silent about the youth meeting in Berlin, so it broadcasts the most senseless rumors."

Radio Berlin, May 30, 1950: "The FDJ members behaved quietly, of course, and demonstrated only in the Soviet Sector .... RIAS asserted that they were coming to it. This was only a matter of certain criminal elements." (The "criminal elements" were, in fact, almost 2,500 interested young people from the Soviet Zone, most of them eager to see the West and to hear Western opinion.)