

Sample of RIAS Coverage of Bonn Parliamentary Affairs

The debate on the Bonn Conventions dominated the news and political output during the period of November 3, 4 and 5, 1952. Newscasts gave roughly 50% of their time to the Bundestag debate and related matters. The station carried the entire proceedings in the Bundestag live over short wave and FM transmitters. Beginning at 1915 hours nightly on the same three days, RIAS offered excerpts from the debate as follows:

- a) December 3 : five hours, seven minutes;
- b) December 4 : three hours, twenty minutes;
- c) December 5 : seven hours, thirteen minutes, plus one hour and three minutes live, joined with the short wave and FM transmitters.

The Berlin press commented that RIAS had performed a public service in making the proceedings accessible to every radio listener, saying that the broadcasts helped to give listeners an interest and sense of participation in parliamentary government. The "Rundfunkspiegel" of the German Industrial Institute commented: " Perhaps RIAS-Berlin found the best solution in offering the full debate over short wave and FM, while the middle wave carried the planned program and then, in the evening hours, carried extensive excerpts from the debate that gave a full picture."