

The Freedom Bell

The dedication of the World Freedom Bell, on October 24, 1950, climaxing the Crusade for Freedom, was given unprecedented radio coverage through the facilities of RIAS.

Dignitaries of nearly 30 nations attended the ceremony at the Berlin Town Hall, during which addresses were delivered by Major General Maxwell D. Taylor, US Commander, Berlin; John J. McCloy, US High Commissioner for Germany; Professor Ernst Reuter, Lord Mayor of Berlin; and General Lucius D. Clay, National Chairman of the Crusade for Freedom.

A crowd estimated at nearly half a million gathered in or near the Berlin Town Hall Square for the ceremonies while millions of other listeners throughout Germany and Western Europe heard the complete dedication services via medium and short wave.

Both the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, the independent station of the National Committee for a Free Europe, relayed the impressive event in Czechoslovak, Bulgarian, Rumanian, Hungarian and Polish to listeners behind the Iron Curtain.

In the United States, the National Broadcasting Company, the American Broadcasting Company, and the Columbia Broadcasting System relayed a shortened version of the ceremonies to some 1500 radio stations.

Because of the significance of the Bell as a symbol of the Freedom Crusade, RIAS broadcasts each evening at 1800 a brief moment of dedication. Following the tones of the Freedom Bell, listeners hear a sentence from the Freedom Pledge, which reads:

"I believe in the sacredness and dignity
of the individual;

"I believe that all men derive the right
to freedom equally from God;

"I pledge to resist aggression and tyranny
wherever they appear on earth."

