

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH

Unit # 10
May 24, 1944

Mr. Douglas Schneider
Chief Radio Division
FWB

Dear Doug:

I have discussed the medium wave situation with M. Joan Castet on two different occasions today and the result is hardly satisfactory. He is leaving for Algiers tomorrow and I think it would be a good idea if you were to talk with him. You can reach him at 673.95 or 608.48. He is, personally, agreeable to giving us what we want, but he has to contend with those who want to devote all the time to programs in Arab. He suggested the following program:

12:00 -12:15 Morocco Time 1:00-1:15 pm Spanish Time
Short and Medium waves

18:00-18:30 Morocco Time 19:00-19:30 Spanish Time
Short and Medium waves (medium wave not certain yet)

19:30-19:40 Morocco Time 20:30-20:40 Spanish Time
Short wave

~~21:45-21:55~~
21:45-21:55 Morocco Time 22:45-23:55 Spanish Time
To be followed by a five minute commentary in Spanish, written by Radio France and spoken and translated by our boys and presented as a joint program of Radio Naciones Unidas and Radio Maroc. This last five minutes to be both short and medium; the first ten only short wave. This does not seem to me a good exchange. We would lose five minutes of the best time we have - evening time and get ten minutes at eight-thirty in Spain, a time that would be extremely difficult for our staff, which is already overworked.

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We have worked out a counter-proposition as follows:

12:00 - 12:15 Morocco Time - medium and short

18:00 - 18:30 Morocco Time, medium and short, divided as follows:
ten minutes news of Naciones Unidas, five minutes of a commentary in Spanish of Radio Maroc and Naciones Unidas, then the Voz de America.

~~2x1230x~~

21:30-21:45 short wave, Moroccan Time

23:15-23:30 Moroccan Time, short wave.

I am not happy about their having their program mixed with ours, and I would like to have some way of getting out of it. I told Castet that there was a question of directives, etc., and he said they would not want to lose their independence, etc. but that there would be no conflict, as they probably would not be. But if I am responsible, I would want to, well, have control. We have not done commentaries simply because, for one thing, we did not have the time, and second not the staff to do a really good commentary job. And I don't think the commentaries of Radio Maroc are going to be as good as I would want our commentaries to be. Moreover, the only reason we cannot have the time on medium wave later in the evening is that it is devoted to Arab music. This seems to me such a silly situation that it leaves me speechless. Also, for us to translate their commentary and do a good job and then take care of the extra program at night may mean we shall have to have another person. I have asked for the late program because the invasion communique will be issued at ten-thirty pm Moroccan time and we could get into Spain with it, but it would be worth so much more if we could get medium wave with it. I am sending all these details so that when you talk with Castet you will be well fortified, and I suggest that Sandy go with you, so that he can defend our cause.

I am calling you tomorrow. If you can put any pressure from there for us to have medium wave on all the shows, please do so, for it would make our work two or three times as valuable...

Best,

Dear Doug:

We are now negotiating with Radio Maroc for medium-wave. They seem willing to grant us time at noon and at 6, but seem reluctant to give in for the nine-thirty show. It is now in the hands of the Residency. If you can send a letter to M. Jean Castet, Directeur, Radio Maroc, stressing the great advantages to allied propaganda if our programs could be sent over both short-wave and medium-wave, it might help.

I have sent none of the radio reports to New York, but I have sent three intelligence reports on Spain to Ballou, head of the Spanish Desk in Washington. I enclose copies of the first two; I should like to have them back; show them to anyone in the office who might be interested. Barnes might like to see them. I shall not do a great deal of such work; there isn't a great deal to be done here, and I'm pretty well tied down to the desk. These reports also go to Madrid.

Sandy can fill you in on details of the operations here.

Monsieur Jean Castet
 Directeur, Radio Maroc,
 Direction de la P.T.T.
 Rabat, Maroc.

Monsieur le Directeur,

La Radio des Nations Unies à Rabat, transmet actuellement, comme vous le savez, sans doute, sur ondes courtes, trois fois par jour, sur les fréquences de Radio Maroc, 25 & 37 Mètres.

Le voyage qu'a fait récemment en Espagne le nouveau chef de la Radio des Nations Unies à Rabat, Monsieur H.A. SOUTHWORTH, ainsi que deux rapports spéciaux que nous avons reçus de Madrid sur la réception des programmes en espagnol de Rabat, nous ont révélé l'importance d'établir aussi rapidement que possible nos programmes sur ondes moyennes.

Le dernier rapport de notre bureau de Madrid nous indique assez clairement qu'une grande partie de l'auditoire potentielle en Espagne ne peut capter les ondes courtes de Rabat avec leurs postes. Pour mettre les programmes en espagnol à leur portée, le chef du bureau de Madrid nous écrit:

"Nous recommandons l'emploi des transmissions par ondes moyennes de Rabat, ce qui assurerait une réception suffisamment forte et augmenterait substantiellement l'auditoire potentielle en Espagne. Ceci est particulièrement important puisque le nombre de postes récepteurs d'ondes courtes est très limité en Espagne."

Nous estimons, par conséquent, de première importance l'emploi à Rabat des ondes moyennes, et c'est dans ce but que nous nous dirigeons à vous, Monsieur le Directeur, dans l'espoir que votre bureau pourra régler cette question aussi rapidement que possible, en coopération avec Monsieur Southworth.

Nous avons plaisir de vous annoncer, en passant, que la demande faite par le chef musical de Radio Maroc, Monsieur BARRAS, a été accordée, et vous recevrez prochainement et régulièrement après, des envois de disques de musiques populaires américaines.

Dans l'attente du plaisir de vous lire favorablement, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Directeur, l'expression de mes sentiments les plus dévoués.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH

To: D.H. Schneider
From: S.M. Koffler

CONFIDENTIAL

Rabat
January 9, 1944

Dear Douglas,

I was rather sorry to learn that no technician could be spared for this outpost. While I realize that good technical men are needed closer to the front I believe that this operation has its operational importance too.

My rather insistent requests for someone with a good technical knowledge stemmed from the fact that our programs are suffering because of frequent pannes, technical slip-ups, buttons which are not turned or switches which are not pulled. Of late there has been a change in the administration of the PTT. The operational part of radio has detached itself from the PTT, with a resulting friction between the two groups which, I think, is one of the causes of our reduced efficiency from the technical point of view.

I believe it is my duty to inform you of the often despairing difficulties we are working against. Tonight for example, we should have begun broadcasting at 7 pm in Spanish. Instead we found our beam occupied by Radio-France coming from Algiers. Nobody could explain why. We lost two minutes till that was straightened out. At 7:15 we hooked up with New York and OGI. At 7:17 the Spanish voice was suddenly cut off and there was music, then a voice in GERMAN. AT THE OTHER PART OF TOWN WHERE THE RELAY IS BROUGHT IN SOMEONE WAS PLAYING AROUND WITH THE DIAL AND HAD HOOKED IN A GERMAN STATION! I quickly cut it off the air, but the damage had been done. This was one of the worst incidents, but there have been others.

We started the year off very nicely. Again at 7 pm New Year's Day, we found that there was something wrong - a "panne". We lost fourteen minutes because some kid had forgotten to push the proper switches at the power station at the other end of town. We were just able to hook up with New York, at 7:15. And the next night on January 2nd, also at 7 pm, we lost ten minutes because some other wire didn't work or something.

But I think you will agree with me that the coup de grace comes now:

I had been informing the "Acting Chief" of Radio Maroc of our difficulties every time we had any trouble. He was always very kind and sympathetic. On January 2nd, however, something broke within him and he blurted out the following words: "It's your fault! It's you Americans who have caused all this, with your ideas of equality and democracy. You are meddling in our internal affairs in France. What we need is a man of authority, a strong man of will in France. It's all right to give France a place in international affairs, but an absolute ruler is needed internally in France. The democratic idea of the equality of men is the cause of all the trouble. You too are having trouble in America with your strikes. What you need is to shoot them down with machineguns." He attributed the fact that we were having technical trouble to the "canaille" who believed they were his equal. "Et voila, ils ne foutent rien." This man's name is De Chamoot. But he is not the only one with such or similar ideas here.

I do have one positive suggestion. I believe we can scare the people at the controls into a realization of the importance of our programs, and of the im-

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possibility of continuing in this way. I am lodging a formal and vigorous protest with the French Residency concerning the technical inadequacy here. (I shall of course say nothing about DE CHAMPOT or his ideas of democracy.)

I am letting you know of this so that you will understand some of the conditions under which we are working here - and the reasons for the recurring breakdowns and mix-ups, in our transmissions every week or so.

Let me know, Doug, if you have any suggestions.

Aside from the above pain in the neck, everything is running rather smoothly. I still put in a rather heavy day from 9 am to 11 pm but still get a big kick out of doing it.

I get our directives regularly now and they are very useful in the planning of my shows. Wish to acknowledge receipt, too, of the Dec. 23-30th Central Directive from Washington, which contains quite a bit of material I think I can use.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.


S.M. Koffler
Chief, P.W.B.
Rabat

Douglas H. Schneider
Chief, Radio Section
P.W.B.

January 4th, 1948

Dear Marston,

I received your letter of the 24th the other day, and feel somewhat ashamed for not having written to you before this. Your leather bag has been haunting me ever since I came here and I could not pass a leather-goods shop without feeling some strange tug within me and the memory of those 700 (I am not sure but I believe that was it. If you say 750, though, let it be 750), francs you gave me makes me wince. Here, Marston, is the story.

After Fritz Southworth left, I found myself pretty busy with my work here at United Nations Radio in Rabat. In fact busy up to my ears. This job means nothing more than a seven day a week job grind (that word is poorly chosen) from 9 am to after 11 pm every day. No time to go out except to get some food, lunch and dinner and a few hours sleep before rushing back to the office to start the day all over again. My job, though, is fascinating, and I have been enjoying every moment I've been here, in spite of and because of the many tight schedules and problems that pop up almost every day. I suppose that conditions in Tunis are somewhat similar to those here - I seem rather rudimentary and no unlike New York or even Algiers as far as organization & new facilities are concerned.

I'm the only American representing the PDB in this city. All those who work for us are either French or Spanish. Sometimes one gets the impression that this is a small island upon which everything has to be taken care of with the most primitive of tools. In many ways I am fortunate for those days at Huntington, and the last week exercise out "in the field". Well I'm out in the field on my own and it's quite a challenge. I think, though, that we make out very very well. Surprisingly well considering circumstances. But I notice that I have wandered off from the alibi I had prepared for you.

Well it seems that when Algiers sent me my first month's pay check, it got as far as Casablanca and then got itself lost for over a month. I just didn't have anything to live on and so made use of the 700 francs you had entrusted to me. I couldn't very well go out and buy your bag - even if I had had the time - when I didn't know where my next franc would come from. So I kept stalling it off and promising to drop you an explanatory note. But I never got around to it. About a week ago the payroll showed up and I have been able to cash my payroll voucher. So that I'll probably be able to take care of your request in the very near future. Please send my sincerest regrets to your wife and family and explain my sorry circumstances.

Al Campbell stopped by my office last week for a few moments on his way back to the United States. It was a real thrill seeing one of the boys again.

As far as the "D" section work is concerned somebody is supposed to have arrived in Casablanca to take care of this end of Morocco affairs, but I do not know what has been done as yet. Fritz wrote me to try to help, but when I can which I'll gladly go, if I can find the time to do it in.

Drop me another note when you find a free moment and let me know how you are making out, and exactly what you are doing now. Any news from the old gang? From Woolly? How is he making out. I understand he finally did get so Italy after all. Is he still there? Write when you can.

Here's hoping this is a real good year.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
224 West 57th Street
New York City

January 11, 1944

Mr. William Tyler
Allied Forces Headquarters
Psychological Warfare Branch
Algiers, North Africa

Dear Bill:

Mr. Barnes has asked me to reply to that part of your letter of December 17th which has reference to the Spanish Voice of America broadcasts from Rabat.

I would appreciate it very much if you would tell Sandy Koffler, who directs the Spanish broadcasts from Rabat, that there has been no marked change in our policy towards Spain since he left. We do speak of war criminals who are guilty and will be punished in accordance with the Moscow declarations. However, we do not mention Franco by name and if some people identify him among the war criminals, that is something we cannot prevent. As to referring to the Russian Army as the "Red Army" we follow the same policy that we did before Sandy Koffler left, i.e., we refer to the Russian Army or the Soviet Army when we paraphrase or write stories about the war fronts and translate "Red Army" when we give an exact translation of the Russian communique and Stalin Order of the Day or any other Soviet official statement.

Arrangements are being made to send you Spanish Regional Directives whenever they come out.

We will take necessary steps to give our Rabat broadcasts as much announcing as possible. From what we hear about them here, we can tell you that we are quite proud of the Rabat operation and one of our chief objectives is to increase as much as possible the number of Spanish broadcasts from here.

With warm regards from all the members of the Iberian Section to you and your associates.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Rendueles
Iberian Regional Editor
Overseas Editorial Board

RR

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Information and Censorship section

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH

APO 512

6th January 1944.

To : Mr.S.M.KOFFLER, PWB, RABAT.

From : Douglas H. SCHNEIDER.

Dear Sandy:

Received your note concerning your classification. I have passed it on, with endorsement for a re-classification, to Hollander for examination by C.D.Jackson.

I do not think that it will be possible to jump you from \$3200 to \$4600 directly. We should aim at \$3800 first and come back to the attack for the higher figure a little later.

Dick Hollander or I will let you know just as soon as we get a decision.

Yours sincerely,


Chief, Radio Section.

DHS/AUM