



RADIO FREE EUROPE
RADIO LIBERTY

RFE/RL, INCORPORATED
1201 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
TELEPHONE (202) 457-6900

LETTER OF VERIFICATION

Mr. Carl Mann
6711 South 139th Avenue Circle
Omaha, NE 68137

20 January 1999

Dear Mr. Mann:

Thank you for your reception report of Radio Free Europe's South Slavic Service in Serbo-Croat, heard on 26 November, 1998 as follows:

2140-2200 UTC on 9680 kHz via Brieche, Morocco

Please accept this as full verification of your reception.

Yours truly,

David Walcutt
Broadcast Operations Liaison

Each of its 22 services apply these principles according to local circumstances. In some countries to which RFE/RL broadcasts, the station has extremely good working relations with the authorities and local journalists. But in other cases, the station must deal with official antipathy and enforced isolation from local journalists. These differences are reflected in the programming of specific services.

But amidst all this diversity, there remains the fundamental mission of RFE/RL: helping people create the conditions of freedom in which they can make decisions for themselves and for their countries.

A Long, Distinguished and Complicated History

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has a long and distinguished history, but it has been anything but a simple one.

Free Europe, Inc., was established in 1949 as non-profit, private corporation to broadcast news and current affairs programs to Eastern European countries behind the Iron Curtain.

The Radio Liberty Committee, Inc., was created two years later along the same lines to broadcast to the nations inside the Soviet Union.

Both were funded principally by the U.S. Congress, through the Central Intelligence Agency, but they also received some private donations as well. The two corporations were merged into a single RFE/RL, Inc. in 1975.

Already in 1971, CIA involvement ended, and all funding and oversight responsibilities were transferred to a presidentially appointed Board for International Broadcasting (BIB).

The BIB's sole responsibility was oversight and funding of RFE/RL, Inc., and after 1982, BIB members also served as members of the board of directors of RFE/RL, Inc. In 1994, its duties were transferred to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), which today oversees all non-military U.S. international broadcasting.

Since the early 1970s, the U.S. Congress has appropriated funds for RFE/RL as part of its regular yearly deliberations on the budgets of the federal government. RFE/RL today receives its funds in the form of a grant from the BBG.

Bringing News To People Who Need It

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union and other members of the Warsaw Pact regularly jammed RFE/RL's signals. In 1988, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev ended jamming, allowing RFE/RL signals to reach a broader audience and allowing RFE/RL services to enter into a closer relationship with the people and journalists they were broadcasting to.

RFE/RL's contribution to the end of communism in this region was acknowledged by virtually everyone. Polish leader Lech Walesa said its role was comparable to the one the sun plays to the earth. Estonian President Lennart Meri nominated RFE/RL for the Nobel Peace prize. Russian President Boris Yeltsin personally intervened to help create an RFE/RL bureau in Moscow after the failed August 1991 coup.

Because of RFE/RL's role in fighting communism, many thought that the radios had fulfilled their mission and could be disbanded. But officials across the region stressed the continuing need for precisely the kind of broadcasts RFE/RL has brought to this region.

Czech President Vaclav Havel spoke for many when he said that "we need your professionalism and your ability to see events from a broad perspective."

Nonetheless, RFE/RL did cut back in some areas even as it expanded in others. It closed its Polish Service, while its Czechoslovak Service was substantially reduced and joined with Czech Public Radio to establish a new public affairs radio program. In January 1994, RFE/RL began broadcasts to the former Yugoslavia, and in October 1998, it launched its Persian Language Service and Radio Free Iraq.

Despite all these changes, RFE/RL's 22 services continue to broadcast more than 700 hours a week in the languages of this enormous region from its headquarters in Prague -- roughly the same number of hours it broadcast a decade ago and for only one-third the cost.

As a result of this increase in efficiency, the future of RFE/RL seems assured, allowing its services to bring news and information to people who need them well into the twenty-first century.

RFE/RL



A Most Unusual Radio Station

RFE/RL, Incorporated
1201 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036

Vinohradska 1
110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic

Corporate Structure

Under IRS rules, RFE/RL is a private, non-profit Sec. 501(c)3 corporation. Chartered in Delaware, it receives federal grants as a private grantee. RFE/RL's corporate board of directors consists of the nine Presidential appointees to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG).

The Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors is **Marc Nathanson**, Chairman and CEO of Falcon Communications of Los Angeles, California.

The President of RFE/RL is **Thomas A. Dine**. Prior to his appointment in August, 1997, he served as Assistant Administrator for Europe and the New Independent States at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Earlier, he headed the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

RFE/RL corporate headquarters are at 1201 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20036 USA. Telephone: (202) 457-6900. Its broadcasting center is located at Vinohradska 1, 110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic. Telephone: +(420-2) 2112-1111.

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RFE/RL:

A Most Unusual Radio Station

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty is a most unusual radio station. It is a private, international radio service broadcasting to countries stretching from Belarus to Bosnia and from the Arctic Sea to the Persian Gulf.

Funded by the U.S. Congress, it reaches more than 20 million listeners who have come to rely on RFE/RL's daily news, analysis and current affairs programming for a coherent, objective account of the events in their region and the world.

On the air for almost half a century, RFE/RL now broadcasts in 25 languages, providing an alternative "home service" to countries where the media are struggling amid chaotic economic conditions to achieve genuine financial and editorial independence.

After many years in Munich, RFE/RL's headquarters moved to Prague, Czech Republic, in 1995. In addition, RFE/RL maintains 22 bureaus across the region and has regular ties with more than 1,000 local freelancers and stringers.

The station's 22 services broadcast more than 700 hours a week. It uses short-wave broadcasts to reach its listeners, but increasingly it is utilizing AM/FM stations through more than 90 affiliate partners in all its broadcast countries except Belarus, Iran, Iraq, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

In addition, RFE/RL maintains an active presence on the Internet. More than five million people visit its website every month -- both to read materials produced by RFE/RL services and regional specialists and to listen to RFE/RL broadcasts using RealAudio.

Because it receives funds from the U.S. Congress, RFE/RL's operations are overseen by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG). Appointed by the president, this nine-member board has oversight responsibility for all non-military U.S. government-financed international broadcasting.

In exercising its oversight responsibilities, the BBG not only does not interfere in the station's editorial policies but it provides a firewall to prevent anyone else in the U.S. government from doing anything that would compromise the station's independence.

A Clear and Continuing Mission

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's mission today remains what it has been for nearly half a century: promoting democratic values and institutions by disseminating factual information and ideas.

From Central Asia to the Pacific, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, from Russia to Central Asia to the Persian Gulf, countries are struggling to overcome autocratic institutions, violations of human rights, ethnic and religious hostilities, and severely controlled media.

RFE/RL exists to help the peoples of this enormous region overcome these problems by promoting the values of democracy and free-market economics in ways that also promote the stability essential to global peace.

Based on the conviction that the first requirement of democracy is a well-informed citizenry and building on nearly a half century of surrogate broadcasting, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has five goals:

First, it provides objective news, analysis, and discussion of domestic and regional issues crucial to successful democratic and free-market transformations.

Second, it helps to strengthen civil societies by projecting democratic values.

Third, it strives to combat ethnic and religious intolerance by promoting mutual understanding among all groups.

Fourth, it provides a model for local media, assists in training to enhance media professionalism and independence, and when possible develops partnerships with local media outlets.

And fifth, it seeks to foster closer ties between the countries of this region and the world's established democracies.

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Learn more at RFE/RL's
home on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.rferl.org>