Radio Peace and Progress (RPP) plays a special role in the U.S.S.R.’s foreign propaganda operations. As the purported voice of Soviet “public opinion,” it is targeted primarily at mass audiences in the Third World. In line with this programming concept, its broadcasts are characteristically more outspoken and less sophisticated than those of the official Radio Moscow. The carefully maintained distinction between RPP and official broadcasts allows for the transmission of material which the Soviet Government and Communist Party might wish to disclaim responsibility.

RPP now broadcasts a total of 161 hours weekly in 1 languages and dialects. It uses, as it has since its first broadcast in 1964, the same facilities as Radio Moscow. The “public” (as opposed to government or party) organizations which sponsor RPP broadcasts include the Union of Journalists of the U.S.S.R., Novosti news agency the Union of Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, the Writer’s Union of the U.S.S.R., the Union of Composers of the U.S.S.R., the Znaniye Society (a lecture and public information organization), the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace, the Committee of U.S.S.R. Youth Organizations, and the Soviet Women’s Committee. Announcements which precede RPP broadcasts explain that it “aims at cooperating in the development and strengthening of mutual understanding, trust, and friendship.”

While RPP’s coverage accurately reflects Soviet policy, it is occasionally used to air unique material that does not appear in any form in official Soviet media. In one such case, an RPP Spanish-language broadcast in January 1981 attributed to a Salvadoran insurgent the view that the situation in El Salvador might deteriorate to the point that Cuba would consider military intervention in support of the guerrillas there. Official Soviet media have not been heard to suggest such a Cuban role. Similarly, RPP has vehemently attacked “reactionary leaders in Iraq” for “fabricated” accusations against Iraqi Communists. Official Soviet media, however, have been scrupulously correct in their treatment of the Iraqi regime.

RPP's program material, above all, is designed to reinforce trends in public opinion that serve Soviet foreign policy interests. For example, RPP Hebrew-language broadcasts are intended to strengthen opposition elements in Israel (including the Israeli Communist Party) and exploit divisions in Israeli public opinion on controversial foreign and domestic issues. In contrast, but in line with the same objective, RPP Spanish-language broadcasts to Latin America are highly inflammatory and designed to exacerbate suspicions and traditional tensions between the United States and its southern neighbors. A sample of recent, regionally specialized RPP themes is given below:

**In Arabic to the Arab World**
- The United States colludes with Israel to dominate the Middle East.
- The sale of AWACS aircraft allows the United States to control the Saudi Arabian Government.
- U.S. leaders consider Arabs to be incapable of grasping the real intentions of American policy.
- Saudi dealings with the United States serve U.S. and Israeli designs against Arabs.
- Moscow is the true ally of the Arab cause.
- Communism is a friend of Islam.

**In Hebrew to Israel**
- The Israeli Government is a hostage to U.S. policy, and Prime Minister Begin has no concern for Israeli interests.
- The United States is an unreliable ally since it arms Arabs as well as Israelis.
- Continuing tension between Israelis and Arabs serves U.S. interests, and the CIA is encouraging criminal acts to aggravate mutual enmity.

**In English to Asia**
- America infiltrates mercenaries into Afghanistan. (Soviet troops there are rarely, if ever, mentioned by RPP.)
- The U.S. Embassy in India is smuggling Afghans out of Afghanistan to attend special spy and sabotage schools in the United States to learn, among other things, how to poison wells.
- The CIA is financing a separatist movement in the Punjab.
- Pakistan, with U.S. and Chinese help, is a nuclear threat to its neighbors.
- The United States and China have agreed to an aggressive military alliance to threaten Asia.

**In Spanish to Latin America**
- The CIA has assassinated well-known Latin American politicians such as Presidents Torrijos of Panama, Roldes of Ecuador, and others.
- The United States is conducting chemical and biological warfare in a program of mass extermination.
The excerpts from broadcasts collected in the Annex are chosen to illustrate RPP’s treatment of the above propaganda themes. While taken from only 4 of RPP’s 15 language services, they convey a tone and level of blatancy which is typical of RPP’s entire range of programming.

ANNEX

Quotations From Radio Peace and Progress

Arabic to the Arab World

“. . . on recent occasions some reactionary leaders in Iraq have tried in their speeches to distort the heroic struggle of Fahd and his comrades and the history and attitude of the Iraq Communist Party with fabricated unfounded accusations . . . These accusations and this feverish campaign in antagonizing Iraq! Communists and the Soviet Union is nothing new to the patriotic and democratic Iraq Forces. The Iraqi people know well that the weapon of Iraqi reactionaries in antagonizing the progressive forces has been and still is one and the same at all times, although the lies differ somewhat . . .” (March 6, 1980)

“General Eytan, the Israeli Chief of Staff, confessed in one of his recent statements that the United States supplies Israel with intelligence information about strategic military targets in Saudi Arabia. Although this admission did not disclose anything new to the world, it gives us another chance to talk about the so-called balanced U.S. policy in the Middle East. America has strived to depict its policy in the region as being just and evenhanded toward both Israel and the Arab. However, such claims are pure propaganda because the United States continues to be eager to consolidate Israel’s military capabilities and thus continues to totally back and support Israel in its expansionist and aggressive designs.” (November 29, 1981)

“...the Reagan Administration is trying to exploit the AWACS deal in order to increase Saudi Arabia’s subservience to American imperialist policies. Furthermore, Washington’s plans to tame Riyadh, which rejects the Camp David deal, have the same colonial crudeness as that of Washington’s British predecessors in the Near an Middle East.... American politicians compare the Arabs with children who should be given a tank or a gun to make them stop shouting.... Behind the bragging over this electronic miracle (the AWACS) lies the hope pinned by the American Administration on the ignorance and the naiveté of the Arabs who, it is claimed, are incapable of grasping the real intentions of American imperialism.” (September 28, 1981)

“The U.S. Congress has approved the sale of five espionage AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia. This act ends a long theatrical play of information put on to conceal Riyadh’s involvement in implementing the designs of the United States and Israel against the Arabs.” (October 30, 1981)

English to Asia

“In violation of all diplomatic norms, the United States Embassy in India is actively taking part in carrying out the CIA-planned so-called smuggling of Afghan counterrevolutionaries through India and other countries. According to the (Indian) weekly (Blitz) in the recent past alone, about 500 Afghan ringleaders flew from Delhi by plane on international airlines to Seattle and other American cities to go through courses in spying and sabotage operations. In special American schools, instructors also teach them methods of conducting mass terrorism against the civilian population — how to blow up factories and plants, schools,
hospitals, and bridges and how to poison drinking wells.”
(December 5, 1981)

“...The CIA used to carry out its criminal operations against
certain statesmen and politicians under cover, but now it has been
given a green light to carry them out against peoples. This
operation involves a wide range of biological and chemical
warfare. Suspicious lethal epidemics have appeared affecting
the population, including epizootic cattle disease and several diseases
affecting agriculture. According to a new order given by the U.S.
President, all restrictions on CIA secret operations abroad have
been lifted, including the barbaric extermination of peoples.”
(November 3, 1981)

“The CIA kidnaps children of Salvadoran refugees in
Honduras. These operations are carried out under the disguise of the
World Mission religious organization, which officially is
carrying out charity activities in the refugee camps. These
shepherds of souls, who in reality are CIA agents, promise the
mothers of the children that they will be well-fed and will receive
an education in the United States. They are subject to all kinds of research and tests. Once
their abilities have been determined, the children are divided into
groups. Some are sent to special schools for brainwashing and then trained for espionage and the organization of terrorist actions.
Others, because they are incept for these activities, are sent to CIA
research centers. Here they are used as guinea pigs. They are used
for testing medicine and chemical products capable of changing
the human conscience; brain operations and other experiments are
also carried out.” (February 4, 1982)

“Repression against Latin American workers has long been
part of the activities of many U.S. multinational companies. Thus,
the hoodlums hired by the Panamerican Railroad Company in
Honduras became notorious for their repression of Honduran
workers... The Coca-Cola Corporation has organized its own
minipolice in Guatemala. Once, the Italian newspaper, Paese Sera,
reported on the way these gangsters operate. It described how a
union leader had been murdered at a bus stop by a motorcyclist
who had approached him, stuck a knife in his throat, and ran away.
However, many persons identified the murderer as a Coca-Cola
employee.” (January 25, 1982)

“U.S. military advisers participate in torturing Salvadoran
rebels and prisoners.... Many executioners of the Stroessner,
Pinochet, Duvalier, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan tyrants, and
also of the late dictator Somoza, were trained in the art of torture
at the notorious School of the Americas. Here they attended a
special course and were lectured on how to set up prisons and
concentration camps. These topics are part of a training program
for several dozen specially chosen persons out of the 1,500
Salvadorans whom the Pentagon and the CIA decided urgently to
train. The first group of this contingent has already arrived in the
United States. Thus, gringo imperialism continues to improve its
gigantic system of tortures and harassment in Latin America.”
(January 12, 1982)