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WKS

Holyoke Mass.
November 12, 1950

Honorable Dean J. Ackerson
Department of Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

NOV 21 PM 1
RECEIVED
DEPT. OF STATE

draft
2/9/51
Kathryn?
OK
Jill

Dear Sir, After listening to Mr. Julius
Optimus talk on "The Truth About Katyn", I
feel there is a fair question to ask why this
truth has been suppressed. Why cannot
the Polish people and the world be told this
truth about tens of thousands of Polish
officers murdered by Russians? And
what is behind the "Voice of America" not
using or allowing others to use this news
broadcast to the world? Just what does
the "Voice of America" mean if not the truth?
There never was any good in opposing
Russia and this looks suspiciously
like appeasement. Sincerely,

X 019302

Miss James F. Connors
347 Appleton St.
Holyoke Mass.

648.6126/11-1250

CS/M

648.6126/
11-1250

DC/R
Anal 20
Rev
Cat

IBD/NY - Mr. Edwin Kretzmann

PVI - Miss Grace B. Ruckh for
action.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
I.B.D. - U.S. DEPT. OF STATE
RECEIVED - NEW YORK

JAN 30 1951

AM. 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 PM.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : P - Mr. Schwinn

DATE: 2/8/51

FROM : PL (PVI) - Miss Ruckh *for*

SUBJECT: Attached draft reply to Mrs. Connors.

I feel the draft letter to Mrs. Connors with the revision suggested by EE in its memo of January 29 is sufficiently responsive, in view of the delicacies of the Katyn matter. In addition, I would suggest that the reply contain some wording to the effect that we regret that there has been an inadvertent delay in replying.

DC/R

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FW 648.6126/11-1250

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : P - Mr. Schwinn

DATE: January 29, 1951

FROM : EE - Mr. Higgs *TH*SUBJECT: Attached draft letter to Mrs. James F. Connors
concerning Katyn Massacre.

EE suggests that the last two paragraphs of the attached draft letter to Mrs. Connors be replaced by a paragraph along the following lines:

"I am sure you will agree that the above record of Voice of America broadcasts regarding the Katyn massacre indicates that the Voice in this, as in other instances, continues to merit its world-wide reputation as a responsible source of information concerning important issues and events."

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1951 FEB 6 PM 3 43

draft
2/9/51
OK
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cm

FW 648.6126/11-1250

Mr. Schwinn agrees
(initials)

CS/M

FW 648.6126/11-1250

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Cat. <u>OK</u>

uf TD
EUR:EE:VJohnson:dy
1-29-51

X 019298

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

January 25, 1951

TO: P - Mr. Schwinn ✓
THRU: PRS John Hamilton *John*
FROM: PRS Chester H. Opal *CHO*
SUBJECT: Katyn Massacre

I think the draft letter gives the impression that the U.S. government officially holds the Russians guilty of the Katyn Massacre. We are making an assumption about the "truth" when we state, as we do at the top of page 2 of the draft letter, that "the majority of the people of Poland are in no doubt as to the truth concerning this dreadful episode". The implication is clear in the passage cited. *W*

I should like to recall that Charles Thayer, when he was in Warsaw, stated that he had spent a month of intensive official investigation of the Katyn case and had reported he was not convinced one way or another. Further, I have the distinct impression that when the Voice of America presented a series of programs on Mikolajczyk's book, The Rape of Poland, the one chapter that was omitted -- and deliberately -- was the one on Katyn.

This is no place to go into the pros and cons, of course. (A reading of the Goebbels Diaries, for example, is almost sufficient to confirm that the Russians did it, because Goebbels talks of what a windfall the discovery of the mass grave was for German propagandists. But even he may have been duped by the reports his own military had given him.) Nevertheless, I should suggest that VOA now stands on good ground simply by reporting developments. The inference that the U.S. government holds the Russians guilty can easily be drawn -- perhaps too easily. The British usually handled both the pros and cons of the case, as you remember; the matter was handled "objectively" but the case against the Russians was stronger than the other and carried itself.

For all these reasons, it is suggested that the passage about the majority of Poles knowing the truth be stricken.

Attachments sent to EE - Mr. Johnson on January 24.

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CHO
PRS:CHOpal:mtb

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CONFIDENTIAL

Walter: I keep thinking that if American Polonia ever got the idea that U.S. government is certain of Russian guilt, a great uproar would result and people would start demanding that some action take the matter into the U.S. You know the Poles... even American Poles.

FW 648.6126/11-1250

CS/M

FW 648.6126/11-1250

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 832926

restricted

January 13, 1951

MEMORANDUM

TO: P - Mr. Joseph B. Phillips (1)
- Mr. Jesse M. MacKnight (2)
- Mr. Joseph Sitrick (3)
P/POL - Mr. Oren Stephens (4)
PRS - Mr. Chester Opal (5)
IBD/NY - Mr. Edwin Kretzmann (6)
EE - Mr. Valdemar Johnson (7)
PVI - Miss Grace E. Ruckh (8)

FROM: P - Walter K. Schwinn

SUBJECT: Katyn Massacre



Attached is a draft reply to an inquiry concerning broadcasts by the Voice of America about the massacre at Katyn. Attached also is a file of pertinent data. Inasmuch as this reply may need to be made several times to different inquiries, your careful and prompt comment would be appreciated.

Attachments:

Draft reply to Mrs. Connors.
Ltr. from Mrs. Connors dtd 11/12/50
Memo to Mr. Kohler from Mr. Schwinn
dtd 12/22/50
Memo to Mr. Schwinn from Mr. Kretzmann
w/two attachments, dtd 1/9/51
Congressional Record dtd 12/11/50

P:WKSchwinn:ldp

restricted

X 019300

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAN 13 1951

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
INVESTIGATION & EVALUATION DIVISION

FW 648.6126/11-1250

CS/M

FW 648.6126
/11-1250

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 832926

STATE DEPARTMENT
JUL 1 1921
RECEIVED

January 13, 1951

DRAFT LETTER

My dear Mrs. Connors:

I refer to your letter of November 12, 1950.

Contrary to the impression that you have been given, the Voice of America has on many occasions broadcast~~ed~~ to other countries, and especially to Poland, news concerning the massacre at Katyn. In the last four months of 1950 the broadcasts to Poland carried eight specific items with regard to the massacre. These included news items of the report on the massacre made by Lt. Col. John Van Vliet, of the letter addressed to Andrei Vishinsky by the American Committee for the Investigation of the Katyn Massacre, of the references to Katyn in the summary of the proceedings at the convention of the Supreme Council of the Polish American Congress in Washington, and of the resolution addressed to the General Assembly at the United Nations by the Polish American Congress requesting an investigation of the massacre. In addition, a number of other references were made to the massacre in the broadcasts. Earlier in the year, an extended news account was given of the testimony with regard to the massacre given before a ~~committee~~ of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate of the United States.

As you will see, the people of Poland and of the world are advised by the Voice of America of the facts concerning the massacre at Katyn. The

Mrs. James F. Connors
397 Appleton Street
Holyoke, Massachusetts

FW 648.6126 / 11-1250

great majority of the people of Poland are in no doubt as to the truth concerning this dreadful episode, and they look to the Voice of America to keep them correctly informed concerning this and other important developments bearing upon their past, their present and their future. The confidence thus placed on the Voice imposes upon it a heavy responsibility to maintain its reputation for accuracy in its broadcasting and for reliability in its guidance to the thinking of the people of Poland in the critical situation which now confronts the world.

I am sure that you will agree that the Voice of America has discharged its responsibilities ably and well.

Very sincerely,

cc: P - Mr. MacKnight
- Mr. Phillips
P/POL - Mr. Stephens
PVI - Miss Ruckh
PRS - Mr. Opal
EE - Mr. Johnson
IBD/NY - Mr. Kohler

P:WKSchwinn:idp

FORM DS-10
2-10-47

DEPARTMENT OF
STATE

DATE

REFERENCE SLIP

Dec. 22

TO:

P - Mr. Schwinn

<input type="checkbox"/> ADVISE	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE & FORWARD
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVE & RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE & RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> AS YOU REQUESTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PER TELEPHONE TALK
<input type="checkbox"/> ATTACH FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUS CORRESPON.
<input type="checkbox"/> ATTENTION	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIORITY ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT & RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> RECONSIDER
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSIDER	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMEND ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> COPYING	<input type="checkbox"/> RECORD
<input type="checkbox"/> CORRECT	<input type="checkbox"/> REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/> FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN TO SENDER
<input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOW-UP	<input type="checkbox"/> REWRITE
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME
<input type="checkbox"/> HOLD	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE REQUIRED
<input type="checkbox"/> INITIALS NEEDED	<input type="checkbox"/> TAKE ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> INSTRUCT	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSFER
<input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATE & REPORT	<input type="checkbox"/> TYPE
<input type="checkbox"/> JUSTIFY	<input type="checkbox"/> VERIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> KEEP ME ADVISED	<input type="checkbox"/> REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF
<input type="checkbox"/> LEGAL MATTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> MEMO REQUIRED	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTERESTED	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE & DESTROY	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE & FILE	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:



FROM

EE V. Johnson

B P

RESTRICTED

MEMORANDUM

TO : IBD/NY - Mr. Kohler
FROM : P - Walter K. Schwinn
SUBJECT: Information Concerning Broadcasts on Katyn.

Dec. 22, 1950

In order to reply to requests, inspired in large part by the activities of Mr. Epstein, concerning broadcasts about the massacre at Katyn. I wonder if you would be good enough to ask Mr. Gdynski to list, if he can, dates on which news and commentaries about Katyn have been broadcast to Poland. In addition, the news desk might be asked to indicate when news about Katyn has been included in the basic news file during the past two years. Is this a possibility?

EE has been given action on these replies, but has asked P to work up a basic draft. I will send a draft to you simultaneously with transmission to EE and will see that your comments are taken into account in the final draft.



*Rec'd
ask min
Stalder's
Committee
etc*

P:WKSchwinn:lwe

*call IBD/NY and see what is being
done 1/8/50*

RESTRICTED

*Will get it to us 1/9/50
Bob Stalker in News Desk is
working on it now.*

FW 648.6126 / 11-1250

RESTRICTED

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : P - Mr. Walter K. Schwinn
FROM : IED - Edwin M. J. Kretzmann *Smjck*
SUBJECT: Coverage of Katyn Massacre of 1950

DATE:

January 9, 1950

In response to your undated memorandum received by us on December 28, Mr. Gidynski has prepared a list of broadcasts which dealt with the Katyn Massacre in 1950, which is attached. I would like to call your attention to Mr. Gidynski's suggestion regarding possible future handling of this subject.

There is also attached the news stories which were put out on four different occasions in 1949 and 1950.

Attachments

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FW 648.6126/11-1250

CS/M
FW 648.6126
11-1250DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 832926

RESTRICTED

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE:

TO : Mr. Walter K. Dickinson

January 9, 1951

[Handwritten signature]

FROM : Mr. Edwin M. J. Kravitz

SUBJECT: Coverage of Katyn Massacre of 1950

In response to your requested memorandum received by us on December 28, Mr. Dickinson has prepared a list of broadcasts which dealt with the Katyn Massacre in 1950, which is attached. I would like to call your attention to Mr. Dickinson's suggestion regarding possible future handling of this subject.

There is also attached the news stories which were put out on four different occasions in 1949 and 1950.

Attachments

OFFICE OF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
JAN 10 11 46 AM '51
FOR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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RESTRICTED

FW 648.4150/11-1500

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FW 648.4150/11-1500

COPY

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Edwin M. J. Kretzmann
Through: Mr. Alfred Puhan
From: Joseph C. Gidynski
Subject: Coverage of Katyn Massacre in 1950

I. Throughout 1950 the Polish Unit gave the following coverage to the Katyn massacre:

DRR, January 24, 1950. News Item on genocide hearings before Senate sub-committee. 19 line summary of Judge Blair F. Gunther's testimony on the Katyn massacre.

DRR, September 19, 1950. 36 lines of news on Lt. Col. John Van Vliet's report on the Katyn crime which was made public by the U.S. Defense Department.

ACE, September 20, 1950. Above 36 lines news item was repeated.

DRR, September 24, 1950. 8 lines on Van Vliet report in the review of the week's events.

ACE, October 6, 1950. 4 lines satirical trifle reading in prose translation: In Korea the Communist hordes are perpetrating murders of prisoners of war just as happened at Katyn ... only there are no Germans in Korea.

ACE, October 26, 1950. Six lines in the news roundup on the Katyn Committee's letter to Vishinsky.

DRR, November 20, 1950. Four line reference to Katyn in the summary of the proceedings at the Convention of the Supreme Council of the Polish American Congress in Washington. (Rozmarek stated that the Polish American Congress was working toward fixing the blame for the Katyn murder)

ACE, November 21, 1950. Three lines mention of the resolution of the Polish American Congress to the U.N. General Assembly demanding an investigation of the Katyn crime within the frame-work of the genocide convention.

DRR, November 21, 1950. Five line mention of the above resolution in news roundup.

There were also a number of other references to Katyn scattered throughout our broadcasts, but it is very difficult to locate them as they were in connection with a variety of subjects.

FW 648.6126/11-1250

II. May I suggest that if proper clearance from Washington could be obtained, the Polish Unit prepare and play a series of objective features on Katyn under the following headings:

1. How the Katyn massacre came to world attention.
2. The German and the Soviet versions of the Katyn massacre.
3. The Katyn massacre in the Nuremberg trial.
4. Later literature on the Katyn massacre.
5. The American Committee for the Investigation of the Katyn Crime.

On November 22, 1949 the News Desk carried the following item:

"NEW YORK: Formation of a new group to gather evidence in connection with the Katyn Massacre in which 11,000 polish prisoners were slain near Smolensk early in World War II was announced yesterday. Headed by former American Ambassador to Poland, Arthur Bliss Lane, the American Committee for the investigation of the Katyn Massacre, Inc., called for a full investigation of the matter. Andrei Vishinsky was among those invited to testify before the committee."

- - - -

In reporting testimony before a Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee VOA carried the following January 24, 1950:

"The Sub-Committee heard a specific accusation that the Soviet Union committed the mass murder of forty three hundred Polish officers near Katyn, west of Smolensk, and of eleven thousand other officers elsewhere in Poland, sometime after the Russian invasion of Poland in September, 1939.

The charge was made by Judge Blair F. Gunther, a county jurist of Pittsburgh and spokesman for Arthur Bliss Lane, former United States Ambassador to Poland and chairman of the American Committee for the investigation of the Katyn Massacre.

Judge Gunther declared that the "extermination of these fifteen thousand three hundred Polish officers represents undoubtedly the greatest military crime in recent history -- a military crime not even matched by Hitler."

Item carried by VOA on September 19, 1950

"WASHINGTON: The Defense Department yesterday released without comment an American officer's statement on the World War II massacre of thousands of Polish officers in the Katyn Forest, near Smolensk. In his statement, Lieutenant Colonel John H. Van Vliet, Jr., a former prisoner of war of the Germans, voiced the belief that the Russians were responsible for the massacre.

Colonel Van Vliet's views were set forth in a memorandum in which he said he was forced to visit the site of the massacre in April, 1943. An American Major, a South African Officer, and Captain Stanley Gilder, were also forced to go to the grave site, which the Germans showed them as alleged proof of Russian atrocities.

Colonel Van Vliet said he at first thought the Germans were trying to use him for propaganda purposes. He later concluded that the Russians actually had conducted a systematic massacre of the Polish Army Officers, and buried them in the Katyn Forest before the Germans occupied the area.

The Defense Department also made public a statement made by Captain Gilder. The British Medical Officer estimated that there were about eleven thousand bodies in the mass graves, and that about thirty-five hundred of them had already been exhumed when the Germans showed him and the American prisoners the site in the forest. Russia had claimed that the Germans themselves had conducted the massacre."

Letter to Vishinsky by Lane as reported on VOA wire October 26, 1950

"NEW YORK: The American Committee for the Investigation of the Katyn Massacre -- a private organization -- has called on Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky to help establish the facts of the mass killing of four thousand Polish officers near Katyn during the war. This request, made in a letter to Mr. Vishinsky, was signed by Committee Chairman, Arthur Bliss Lane, former U. S. Ambassador to Poland."

FEB 13 1951

My dear Mrs. Connors:

(2/7/51)
648.6126/11-1250

Thank you for your letter of November 12, 1950 about use of news of the Katyn massacre on the Voice of America. I am very sorry there has been an inadvertent delay in replying to your question.

Contrary to the impression you have been given, the Voice of America has on many occasions broadcast to other countries, and especially to Poland, news concerning the massacre at Katyn. In the last four months of 1950 the broadcasts to Poland carried eight specific items with regard to the massacre. These included news items of the report on the massacre made by Lieutenant Colonel John Van Vliet, of the letter addressed to Andrei Vishinsky by the American Committee for the Investigation of the Katyn Massacre, of the references to Katyn in the summary of the proceedings at the convention of the Supreme Council of the Polish American Congress in Washington, and of the resolution addressed to the General Assembly at the United Nations by the Polish American Congress requesting an investigation of the massacre. In addition, a number of other references were made to the massacre in the broadcasts. Earlier in the year, an extended news account was given of the testimony with regard to the massacre presented before the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate.

I believe you will agree that the above record of Voice of America broadcasts regarding the Katyn massacre indicates

Mrs. James F. Connors,
397 Appleton Street,
Holyoke, Massachusetts.

DC/R
Anal. 20
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648.6126/11-1250

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indicates that the Voice in this, as in other instances, continues to merit its world-wide reputation as a responsible source of information concerning important issues and events.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Margaret R. T. Carter
Chief
Division of Public Liaison

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FEB 12 1951 P.M.
FEB 13 1951 P.M.

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EE

P:WKSchwinn: *wsd*
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P-Mr. Schwinn

2/9/51