

APPROVED FOR RELEASE AR 70-14
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

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HR70-14

31 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of General Counsel

ATTENTION:

SUBJECT: Broadcast of Serialization of Dr. Zhivago by
Radio Liberation.

1. There is attached hereto a copy of a letter to Chief, IO/5 from Legal Counsel to the American Committee for Liberation, N.Y., outlining the legal problem confronting AmComLib in its desire to broadcast the Russian language version of the Pasternak book, Dr. Zhivago, in serial form to its audiences in the Soviet Union.

2. As you know, this book is being withheld from the Soviet public by the Soviet authorities who have refused to allow its publication in that country. AmComLib feels that it is important, and we share this feeling, that Radio Liberation do everything possible to make it available to Soviet listeners as a basic part of its mission to keep the Soviet public informed of events and material which the Communist regime seeks to deny them.

3. letter sums up the legal position as he sees it and we solicit your comment and advice thereon.

4. There are two angles not covered in memorandum:

a. We are informed that the British Broadcasting Corporation is broadcasting now extensive daily excerpts from the book and expects to cover in this way about one-third of the total length. Our information, however, does not indicate whether these broadcasts are being made in the English or Russian language and we are endeavoring to clarify this.

b. The New York emigre

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b. The New York emigre newspaper Novoye Russkoye Slovo is serializing the Russian language version with this acknowledgment to the University of Michigan: "We are able to publish Dr. Zhivago thanks to the cooperation of the University of Michigan Press which is shortly publishing the Russian original of Dr. Zhivago in book form."

5. We realize that there are other elements in this situation which are of concern to the Agency. We are simply dealing here with the matter of whether Radio Liberation can legally broadcast the Russian language version, or if not, whether we should do so without legal sanction.

C/IO/5

Attachments

2 copies ltr frm [redacted]
to [redacted]

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