

Coordinator of Information - Summary of Axis Broadcasts -

1941

Subject File

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Box No.

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COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]

October 10, 1941.

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

Attached is a report on Axis broadcasts during the last week. It occurred to me that you might wish to see the trend of these broadcasts and to follow the argument underlying them. I think behind all that they say is a very definite purpose.

If you would like to follow them, I will see that each week there will be on your desk a very brief summary of what both Rome and Berlin have broadcast the preceding seven days.

Respectfully,

[Handwritten signature]
William J. Donovan

Enc. Report.

REPORT ON AXIS BROADCASTS DURING WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 10, 1941

This report concerns Axis broadcasts for the week ending Friday, October 10, 1941, and is based on:

1. Monitoring reports of the Federal Communications Commission.
2. Available information from the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service.
3. Reports of the Columbia Broadcasting System's short-wave listening station and National Broadcasting Company's listening post.
4. Independent listening by the staff of the short-wave intelligence unit of my office.

PART I

Axis Propaganda on Proposed Amendment of Article 6 of Neutrality Act of 1939.

In the first 24 hours after the President's message to Congress, asking for repeal of Section 6 of the Neutrality Act, Axis broadcasts mentioned the President's message only obliquely. It was never given an important position in news broadcasts and was never presented as an individual item of news without comment. Usually it was mentioned as part of an item reporting on German successes in the East. In most news broadcasts, the message was ignored completely.

The Nazi-controlled transmitter at Amsterdam, broadcasting at 9:45 A.M. EST on Friday, October 10, was typical of one presentation. It said:

"It is reported from Washington that President Roosevelt sent a message to Congress urging the Legislature to revise the

Neutrality Act so as to permit the arming of American merchantmen.

"Disguising his own imperialistic plans, the President tried to motivate this measure, with the allegation that Germany intends to dominate the world."

A Berlin broadcast made at 6:30 A.M. EST on Friday, October 10, 1941, introduces the subject in another way:

"Political tension in London, which has reached the high water mark, has been induced by two important factors:

"First, the catastrophic military situation of the Soviets in the East;

"Second, the battle for the revision of the American neutrality law.

"London is on tenterhooks and bringing out one argument after another in an attempt to influence Congress to take steps in England's favor.

"Naturally, the Soviet Union's SOS call has again been relayed to Congress members, so that they will arrive at a favorable (decision) for England at a more rapid pace. That at least is what they hope.

"All too conspicuous is the frankness with which the London scribes paint the picture of the position of the Bolsheviks, writing at the same time that the Soviet government makes no attempt to conceal the serious predicament in which the Soviet Union finds itself.

"The London correspondent of the newspaper Aftonbladet writes that London is enveloped in a cloak of gloom and is becoming more and more dispirited and downcast."

The remainder of this section of the broadcast was devoted to a lengthy report enlarging on the subject of "London's Gloom."

The Deutschlandsender, broadcasting to home listeners in Germany at 7 P.M. Friday, British summer time, broke the news in these words:

"Mr. Roosevelt has sent a message to Congress in which he asked for the revision of the Neutrality Act. The United States President, complying with an order from his Jewish bosses, demanded the repeal of the laws prohibiting the arming of merchantmen as well as their sailing in combat zones. In support of his war-mongering demands, Roosevelt as usual brought up far-fetched arguments and limited himself to a few stupid attacks against national Socialism."

In anticipation of modification of the Neutrality Act, Axis broadcasts during the past week followed two principle lines of argument.

FIRST ARGUMENT

Amendment of the Neutrality Act will involve the United States in the war. It will mean that American troops will be sent overseas. (In this connection, we have not heard any Axis broadcaster mention Article 6 of the Act. Occasionally the President's proposal was referred to as "Amendment of the Neutrality Act." Usually Axis broadcasters referred to "Repeal" of the Act.)

Example of First Argument. On October 2, Berlin broadcast to Latin America that the President, "in order to back up his avowed intention of defeating the totalitarian powers, seeks now to have Congress amend the Neutrality Act so that American troops may be sent to fight on foreign soil."

The possibility of American troops "fighting on foreign soil" has been a consistent Axis argument to United States listeners for many months. Fred W. Kaltenbach, broadcasting from Berlin, has twice read the poem, "In Flanders Field."

On October 7, a Rome broadcaster declared that the American press was "agitating for troop landings in Portugal, Sicily and Suez." He added that Secretary Knox, "like his childish paralytic President," wants such a move.

On the same day another Rome spokesman broadcast:

"Wilson took the same decision of arming merchant ships some weeks before leading his country to war. This means that the United States is today nearing the same situation in which it was in 1917. In crude words it means that the United States is on the verge of war....."

SECOND ARGUMENT

The President seeks amendment of the Act in opposition to the will of the American people. In furtherance of this argument, Rome and Berlin daily quote an American Institute of Public Opinion Poll representing it as showing that "eighty percent of the people of the United States are opposed to war." On October 3, Rome commented favorably on a statement by Senator Wheeler to the effect that if the question of amendment of the Neutrality Act were put to a plebiscite, it would be defeated by a huge majority. Senator Wheeler, Rome said, was an exponent "of a great majority in America who do not want war. But this large majority does not have the means to manifest its will." In the same program, the Rome announcer said: "The day is not too far off when he (Roosevelt) will be forced to use the police force in order to impose the war on his country."

COLLATERAL ARGUMENTS

(A) In one broadcast from Rome to North America on October 7, "The President's efforts to change the Act" were represented as a violation of the Constitution, of the Monroe Doctrine, and of the "trust of the American people."

(B) On October 2, Rome declared that "The American interventionists are seeking to amend the Act, not for the purpose of increasing its effectiveness, but to retain the appearance, while violating the principles, of neutrality."

(C) Incidents are being manufactured to force changes in the Act. Broadcasting in Portuguese to Brazil on October 7, Rome radio quotes the newspaper Suisse: "It is undoubtedly a mere coincidence that the American Navy Department announced that one more ship had been torpedoed in the South Atlantic at the same moment that the President of the United States (one word inaudible) of the outright repeal, or at least an amendment, of the Neutrality Act."

(D) The President, fearful of assuming the responsibility of making a war move, is attempting to shift the responsibility to the Congress.

(E) The President is attempting to push the country into war against the will of the Congress.

PART II

Axis Attitude Toward the United States.

Increasingly during the past week, Axis propaganda to and about the United States has lumped this country with Great Britain and the Soviet Union as a belligerent enemy of Germany and Italy.

Occasionally we have heard protestations that Germany has given the United States no provocation for war, and there have been occasional warnings to the people of the United States that the United States government was heading toward war under the leadership of "The War Party".

But so far as Declarations of Intention may be taken at face value, the Axis considers itself at war with the United States.

This section of the report will not deal with Axis attacks on the morale of the people of the United States, nor with Axis attempts to encourage disloyalty to the government and the Constitution of the United States. It will be concerned wholly with the Axis' own declarations concerning the relations between itself and this country.

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During the past week, except for ironical asides, we have not heard the Axis refer to the United States as a neutral. However, there have been frequent references to this country as an enemy belligerent.

On October 1, Lord Haw Haw, speaking from Berlin, said "The British, Russian and American Allies" are all deceiving each other.

On October 2, Berlin said that it is not the Soviet that is fighting for Britain, but the other way around: "England and the United States joined the Soviets as comrades in arms, now... England as well as the United States has become the accomplice of the murdering culture-destroying Bolsheviks."

On October 7, Rome spoke of the "English and American Bellicists" and called the President's statement on religion in the U.S.S.R. "A new and audacious manifestation of his boundless bellicism."

On October 10, Rome quoted the President as saying in his

message to Congress on the Neutrality Act: "During these years of war we Americans have never been neutral." Rome continues, "Whoever imagined they had? The Axis on the other hand has consistently respected the United States as a neutral country. Yet Mr. Roosevelt claims that it is the Axis and not America who are the aggressors."

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The Axis provoked -

The above quotations are intended to illustrate, rather than to establish, that the Axis considers the United States a belligerent enemy. It will be recalled that the existence of a state of military war between the Axis and other countries always has been accompanied by a propaganda campaign declaring that the country under attack had provoked the Axis into taking military action.

Such accusations of "provocation" have been growing in frequency during the past week. Here are typical examples:

On October 2, Berlin proclaimed to South America that the German nation refuses to be provoked into war with the United States by President Roosevelt's actions and at the same time declines to give the President any pretext whatsoever for declaring war himself.

On October 6, Paul Revere, speaking from Berlin, charged that "Roosevelt and his coterie of international plotters...has succeeded in placing America in the ranks of Republican Finland's aggressors."

Rome, on the same day, called armed ships under Panamanian registry a "trick to which Roosevelt has had recourse in order to create incidents." In the same broadcast Rome demands, "How

can the United States talk of peace if it is (so inclined) to enter the war?"

Later on October 6, commenting on the American mission to Dakar, Rome said, "It is easy for us to understand that some time from now American contingents, under the protection of that perfect patriot, General De Gaulle, will land without encountering resistance in these French...Colonies which remained loyal to the Vichy government."

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The people exonerated -

Until the day of the Armistice with France, Axis propaganda consistently addressed the French people as friends. Only a "war-mongering government" was held to blame for the state of war. Such attempts to differentiate between the people and the government did not, therefore, indicate the actual state of belligerency between the Axis and other nations.

Last week's broadcasts to and about the United States were similar to those addressed to France prior to July 10, 1940.

One example:

On October 4, 1941, Rome broadcast in French, quoting the Washington Times Herald as calling the American Force in Iceland "The first contingent of American soldiers who have already left for Europe, despite the promises of President Roosevelt not to intervene in the European war. This, despite the fact that Great Britain presently is not in as great a danger as in 1940 and despite that 80 percent of the population of the United States is against intervention, the government is getting closer to this war every day because of the activities of the interventionists."

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Post-war sanctions threatened for "Belligerency" -

On October 1, Berlin condemned the United States for refusing to break the British blockade, and threatened post-war sanctions: "After this war Europe will take special care that neither food-stuffs nor raw materials from British or American origin will find access to Europe."

REPORT ON AXIS BROADCASTS DURING
WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 17, 1941

This report concerns Axis broadcasts for the week ending Friday, October 17th, 1941, and is based on:

1. Monitoring reports of the Federal Communications Commission.
2. Available information from the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service.
3. Reports of the Columbia Broadcasting System's short-wave listening station and National Broadcasting Company's listening post.
4. Independent listening by the staff of the short-wave intelligence unit of my office.

PART I

AXIS PROPAGANDA.

In broadcasts to North America, with the single exception of those in French aimed at French Canadians, the "Holy Crusade" had begun to taper off at the beginning of the week. It came back briefly on the North American beam when reinforced by the poll of clergy publicized by the Hearst newspapers.

In broadcasts to Latin America "Godless Russia" has remained the principal driving force behind all Axis propaganda, and it becomes clear that the Axis is aiming its attack to envelop the United States. In fact, the United States has been more virulently reviled as an ally of "Godless Russia" than

has "Godless Russia" itself.

Only twice in recent weeks has the intensity of the Axis offensive on this front wavered. The first time was when the President spoke out about the guarantees of the religious liberty in the Soviet Constitution. The second time was the occasion of the news that Averill Harriman had conducted conversations on the subject in Moscow.

In both instances the Axis showed unmistakable signs that it was feeling the effects of these counter-offensives. When Axis broadcasters are completely at a loss for an argument they invariably fall back on anti-semitism. The news in both of the above instances threw them into violent paroxysms of anti-semitism.

The lack of further effective answer from the United States permitted them to regain their composure shortly, however, and the campaign of "United States is an ally of Godless Russia" got back in stride.

One example of how the Axis approaches Latin America with what sounds like a positive program is the following from an Italian broadcast to South America on the night of

October 12th:

"The crusade which Rome and Berlin are leading with their spiritual and military forces against the poisoners of the world has extraordinary repercussions in Europe, and not only in Europe

"Italy asks of the Latin American brothers their fully active moral solidarity in the formidable campaign which will permit the modern world to breathe freely

"Italy calls to the natural anti-communism of Argentina, productive, intelligent and orderly; to the Catholic Brazil of Vargas, who in 1935 was the energetic asserter of anti-bolshevism; to Chile, a country of innate aristocracy, and which knew the basis of the social danger.

"Italy appeals to all of Latin America . . . so that she may increasingly feel and teach others that wherever there is a Christian tradition to preserve, there a militant anti-bolshevism must be organized."

Day after day the Axis argues that aid to Russia means that the United States is about to be Bolshevized. A typical example is this Berlin broadcast to Latin-America on the night of October 14th:

"A few years ago Stalin declared at a party congress that the Bolshevist party in the U. S. A. has a task of decisive significance. According to Stalin's words, the moment was no longer far off when the communists would succeed in putting a revolutionary crisis in America into motion. The recognition of Moscow by the U. S. A. has had its effect upon Communist agitation. The Communists have now adopted Anti-Fascism as the tactic with which to accelerate the Communistic revolution in America.

"The intimate and personal friendship between Roosevelt and Stalin has considerably increased the danger of Red revolt in the U. S. A."

Both of the examples above are typical. Axis broadcasts show clearly that the Axis knows it has seized the offensive in this phase of the propaganda warfare.

Obviously, the strategy is this:

The United States is committed to a policy of aid to the Russians. Saboteurs and submarines have been assigned the job of stopping as much of the military aid as possible.

But far beyond the planes and tanks which eventually are to go to the Russians is the aid to be derived from the force of our national prestige.

The Axis fears that the world may hear that the United States is all-out for all persons, including Russians, who resist Fascist aggression. Such news would be disastrous if it reached the German people, and would strengthen the enemies of the Axis if they should hear it.

Thus, the Axis seeks to give comfort to its dupes and its prisoners by frightening us into withholding our moral support. If it can frighten us into silence by encouraging Anti-Yankee sentiment in Latin America, it will have gained immeasurably.

Thus, it appears that while the Axis strategy has the direct objective of stirring up Anti-United States sentiment in Latin America, there may be an indirect

result to be hoped for by the Axis in following this line of attack which would be even more desirable from the viewpoint of Fascism.

The indirect result sought for might well be the encouragement of elements in the United States who argue that all-out aid to the Russians might hurt our relations with the Americas.

Thus the "Holy Crusade" might be expected to influence people in the United States who are in favor of aiding the Russians, but fearful of the consequences. Obviously, any division among Americans or any withholding of moral support from the Russians would be most desirable from the Axis viewpoint.

PART II

UNITED STATES AID TO GERMANY'S ENEMIES

Capitalizing on its military victories to obtain further victories against the morale of the Anti-Axis world, the Germans have been hammering all week at the theme that the position of the Soviet Union, as a military power, is hopeless.

British and American promises are described not only as empty but pointless, since Russia's military defeat had been secured. The one thing that Germany conceded might be useful was a British invasion of the Continent.

Britain was taunted about failure to invade Europe, and to climax this campaign and get it on the world's front pages, apparently the Germans invented the Stockholm Aftonbladet story that a B. E. F. had landed in Archangel. This story they then proceeded systematically to reduce to absurdity. Britain, said Germany, hasn't the ships to conduct an invasion.

Expanding its invasion propaganda, Germany then brought America into the picture. On October 14th, 1941, Berlin broadcast to the United States:

"Mr. Roosevelt and his advisers are determined to send a huge expeditionary force to Europe. It is the opinion of all military experts that Britain will be unable to escape defeat unless an American

army lands in Europe. American experts familiar with German military strength have said long ago that an American conquest of Europe is preposterous. What would be the prospect of an American expeditionary force attempting to land on the shores of a far away Continent?"

An earlier broadcast had argued the impossibility of an invasion by stating that American ships were barely sufficient to supply Britain with her defense needs, let alone operate in an offensive fashion. The final development in the circle of invasion propaganda came on October 16th. Hans Fritsche broadcast:

"A conversation on the eventual necessity of the U. S. A. making a blood sacrifice has been started on this side of the Atlantic. It was an odd conversation. These allusions have not been understood in the United States. The Daily Sketch wrote that the war could not be won by England without the U. S. A. making a blood sacrifice.

This clamoring for new cannon fodder found no echo in the American papers. A Chicago paper answered the Daily Sketch in noting that England is always willing to let the other people's blood run, but has until now lost only very little of her own."

Extending the Axis-invented story, Rome broadcast to South America:

"It is criminal that Stalin should continue a resistance which no longer has any military hope. It is criminal that Churchill should prolong a war which England has already inexorably lost. It is criminal that Roosevelt should stubbornly urge the American people to undertake a tragic venture . . ."

Into this picture Berlin this week injected the subject of peace. First reports quoted "American reports" that Germany had asked for an armistice from Russia. The next day it was Russian reports. On the third day it was British reports. Never, said Germany, will we offer peace to the Churchill or Stalin Governments -- leaving for

peace-at-any-pricers the alternative of peace without the Churchill or Stalin Governments. That was from October 11th through October 14th.

On October 15th it suddenly developed that the United States was the real rogue. Said Berlin:

"If it were not for unrevealed commitments made by the White House, England would have given heed to overtures of peace offered by Germany many months ago. . . . The fear of peace is the spectre which frightens the advocates of war in the U. S. A. . . . A peace in Europe in the near future would result in the collapse of the house of cards built by the Washington Administration."

Rome, on the same day, narrowed it down from the White House to the President. Hull, said Rome, attacked the President because "but for him the country might enjoy now a little peace and tranquillity."

On October 15th Edward Montgomery, frequently the BBC spokesman for the British Foreign Office, pointed

out that the Germans started the peace talk themselves by denying that they had suggested peace. They thereby put the word "peace" on the front pages and started peace talk in foreign capitals, while making it appear that peace talk had started anywhere in the world but in Germany.

Throughout this period Berlin increased its propaganda about the New Order, quoting Balkan statesmen, Reichsminister Funk, Dr. Goebbels and others, in what seemed an obvious attempt to suggest that peace under the New Order would be most desirable.

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*BF COD Raw file
Personal #2*

COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 24, 1941.

My dear Mr. President:

There is transmitted herewith the weekly summary of Axis radio broadcasts for the week ending Friday, October 24th, together with a brief summary of short-wave activity by this office.

Respectfully,

Bill
William J. Donovan

The President,

The White House.

REPORT ON AXIS BROADCASTS DURING WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 24, 1941

This report concerns Axis broadcasts for the week ending Friday, October 24, 1941, and is based on:

1. Monitoring reports of the Federal Communications Commission.
2. Available information from the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service.
3. Reports of the Columbia Broadcasting System's short-wave listening station and National Broadcasting Company's listening post.
4. Independent listening by the staff of the short-wave intelligence unit of my office.

PART I

The Italian Home Front

For a long time, it has been obvious that the Italian Home Front is vulnerable.

This week, the Axis propagandists were forced on the defensive, at least temporarily, on that Front.

The speech on Monday of Dr. Walther Funk at the University of Rome, promising the Italians that if they would stick with Germany they would eventually be rich, was the only sign of offensive spirit.

And while this speech was warmed over for short-wave broadcasts from both Berlin and Rome for several days, the German medium-wave radio, directed to listeners in the Reich, did not once mention it. All that German home listeners were permitted to hear about Dr. Funk's activities was that he received a degree from the University of Rome and that he was in Italy making arrangements "to insure victory".

For the first few days of this week, both Rome and Italy, broadcasting on short-wave, used Dr. Funk's speech to off-set the speech in

Detroit by Breckinridge Long. But by Thursday night, they had completely surrendered the initiative on this Front, and were merely denouncing Mr. Long and denying loudly what he said about internal conditions in Italy.

Examples of Axis Moves On This Front:

On October 20, the day after Mr. Long's speech, radio Roma referred to Mr. Long's "maneuver," and said: "The aim of it is very clear. It is an attempt to arouse the atrocious suspicion that Germany, in order to realize her aim, would be ready to betray and stab her own ally. Throughout our history cannot be found an episode which could legitimatize even the thought that the Germans are capable of such infamy."

On the same day, in English-language short-wave broadcasts, tense relations between Germany and Italy were denied by Rome broadcasters in general terms. But in Italian language broadcasts, the denials were more specific and the justification of the German-Italian alliance more detailed.

Broadcasting to Latin-America, Rome and Berlin played up "Yankee Arrogance." Both suggested that Italians everywhere should be indignant at Mr. Long's speech and at other "American lies and infamy" directed against the Homeland.

An "official spokesman" in Berlin fed foreign correspondents with another kind of answer: "It would be ridiculous to assume that Germany is calling on Italy for 1,000,000 additional troops, now that the Russians have been crushed."

On October 21 and 22, Mario Appelius, broadcasting from Rome to Italians at home, reported that Berlin, too, was indignant at Mr. Long's statement. He said that the Italian people, "formerly condemned to poverty," have been called upon by Germany "as partners, to regulate and manage Mediterranean economy and become the natural traffic bridge with countries of Africa and the East."

Dr. Funk's promises and Mr. Long's speech frequently were coupled in the early commentaries.

Berlin then began to praise Italian valor on the Eastern Front.

By Thursday, the FCC reported that German broadcasts to Latin America no longer spoke of "A German Europe", but rather of a Europe "led by Germany and Italy".

Virginio Gayda, whose editorials are always quoted by Rome broadcasters, suggested that an official apology from the United States might be in order because of Mr. Long's speech. That was on Wednesday, and by that time Dr. Funk's promises apparently were no longer "musts" on the Rome programs. But Mr. Long still was deemed worthy of consideration in both Italian press and radio comments up to and including today.

PART II

The New Japanese Cabinet as Anti-U.S. Propaganda:

From the day that the new Japanese Cabinet assumed power, the Axis seized the development as a weapon against the U.S.A. Increasingly unequivocal in tone, Axis broadcasts, with the exception of Japanese broadcasts to North America and China, stressed these points:

1. The breakdown of U.S.-Japanese talks precipitated the fall of the Konoye Cabinet.
2. The advent of the new Cabinet means strengthening of the tri-partite pact and unity within Japan; Japanese militarism will increase.
3. Britain is using the development to drag the U.S.A. into war.
4. The Pacific was President Roosevelt's trump card, but now Japan holds it.

The anti-U.S. themes are best illustrated by broadcasts from the Nazi-controlled Amsterdam

wireless and from Rome radio on October 18.

Both cited the Axis-subsidized and Axis-owned press to the effect that the Konoye Cabinet was forced to resign because of the breakdown of talks with the U.S.A. La Stampa was quoted as saying that the President's attitude toward the negotiations deeply wounded Japanese national honor and dignity. La Stampa further said that the Pacific was the President's trump card: "Now Japan holds it."

Inside Europe the emphasis was somewhat different. On October 18, Budapest broadcast for Hungary quoted "semi-official German circles" as saying the new Cabinet would collaborate with the Axis even more closely and that Berlin believed Konoye's downfall was caused by Japanese militarists who were impatient with the fruitless discussions with America and impatient, too, with their own government for

making ready for entry into the war too slowly.

Thus, the Cabinet change was represented as an offensive, rather than a defensive, move.

On the same day, Rome reminded South Americans that Japan was bound to the Axis powers by the three-power pact, one of the clauses of which would operate in the event that the U.S.A. attacked the Axis powers. The indestructibility of the Axis is a traditional Axis theme to Latin-America.

Addressed "The Folks Back Home In Iowa," Fred Kaltenbach, from Berlin, said in Mid-Western English:

"It is England's policy to egg on America to take an ill-considered step toward Japan, in the hope that this would at last bring America in the war against the Axis powers. Are you going to fall for this line? Are you going to let England make a sap out of you again?"

Editorials in The Chicago Tribune, using the same

arguments, were frequently quoted to North America.

In broadcasts to areas other than North America and China, Japanese transmissions interpreted the Cabinet crisis as a sign of Japanese belligerency. But to China and to North America, Japan showed a different, a peaceful face.

On October 20, Manchukuo in English told the U.S.A., quoting an unnamed Washington commentator, that there was no reason why Japan and the U.S.A. should be enemies. At no time through the week did Japan short-wave transmissions to North America mention the tri-partite pact. However, radio Tokyo on one occasion described "terrified British and American reactions" to the Cabinet change and contrasted that with Italian and German comments.

Tokyo reported that anti-Japanese news

"has been banned from American papers for the duration of the Tokyo-Washington conversations", quoting The Washington Star as authority. On October 21, radio Tokyo appealed to the American people direct, saying: "The United States should appreciate Japan's strategic position in relation to Soviet aid and to Pacific peace. The importance of a friendly Japan must be clear if the United States means to continue aiding Russia."

For China, in Chinese on October 20, the Tokyo radio spoke of the "spiritual alliance" of Germany, Japan and Italy and declared that Japan's intentions were peaceful, that predictions of new warlike steps were misconceptions, and that peace or war did not wholly depend on the decisions of one man, but also on the attitude of the opponent.

PART III

The "New Order"

In the face of all the news indicating an extreme state of disorder throughout Europe, the Axis propagandists insist that "The New Order" already has been established. Coupled with this has been the insistent propaganda theme that the Soviet Union already is beaten. The Axis campaign appeared to be at flood tide by the middle of this week.

Evidences of these propaganda lines are so well represented in newspaper despatches that no illustration of how they are presented on short-wave seems indicated here.

PART IV

Anniversary of Montoire

The German, Vichy and Rome radio began preparing for the Anniversary of Montoire on October 19.

The German radio in Paris - which this week began to call itself "Paris Mondial" again, for the first time since June of last year - suggested that French school teachers should be "held responsible" for any demonstrations by their students on the Anniversary.

On October 20, the Paris radio reminded listeners of the Anniversary and said it was "unfortunate" that French war prisoners should feel themselves responsible for France's defeat, when actually they "were surrendered".

Today, which is the Anniversary, brought extended press comment from German-controlled and pro-Vichy newspapers. All warned against demonstrations, which they ascribed in advance to "foreign agents."

All commentaries broadcast carried
either threats or cajoleries against
demonstrations. Several of them reminded
the populace of "the war prisoners".

PART V

Incidental Notes

Axis broadcasters do not seem to like Colonel Donovan, Jimmy Roosevelt, Archibald MacLeish, or Robert E. Sherwood.

Identifying these four as "The President's new espionage bureau," Ezra Pound, on one of his regular reports from Rome, dismissed "Colonel Donovan as a fool," but said that "nobody thinks him a coward."

He promised to report later on Captain Roosevelt and MacLeish.

Of Sherwood, he said:

"Why a man called Robert Emmet Sherwood, and presumably the son of an Irish mother, should be set out on the hill, forgetting the wrongs of Ireland, beats me...

"As for Robert Emmet Sherwood, unless his father changed his name from Sherman - not William, but the Jew one -- he ought to have

told little Bobby not to admire Winston for
wanting Paris razed to the ground for the
sake of three days or less delay in the final
result of the German invasion..."

SUMMARY

COI'S REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

PART I

ITALY

Following directives from the State and War Departments, this office prepared and transmitted to short-wave broadcasters a series of news stories aimed at increasing tension between Italy and Germany. Our experience indicated that neither Germany nor Italy could take much hammering on this point.

News originating in official U. S. sources, such as the State Department, Department of Commerce, and the Department of Agriculture, was utilized. Internal conditions in Italy resulting from the German occupation was the theme. Extensive quotes were used from outside sources which had previously been checked for reliability with the State and War Departments. In such cases, the attention of radio editors was directed to this material and we assured them that the facts quoted were

correct.

To supplement and reinforce this campaign, especially good information made available to us by the State and other Departments, was judiciously placed in the proper quarters. Editorial comments of American newspapers and columnists, therefore, were of great use and were provided our short-wave editors.

In consultation with the State Department, the Coordinator of Information's office was able to suggest a speech by Breckinridge Long containing a number of facts about the Italo-German collaboration which we thought the Italians should know. Outstanding among these facts was the reported mobilization of one million Italians for service outside of Italy under German control.

The Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs assisted this office in the distribution of

Mr. Long's speech on last Sunday. The facts revealed by Mr. Long reached home and produced a violent reaction in the Italian and German press and radio. For the past week they have been on the defensive in denying Long's address. The Coordinator of Information abetted this campaign by preparing numerous news items based on the Long speech and these were supplied to radio stations broadcasting in Italian to Europe.

PART II

COUNTER-AXIS

We have obtained and sent to short-wave editors specific information about disorders from trustworthy sources, discarding mountains of questionable evidence.

Our daily roundup of Axis propoganda, now going by request to all short-wave stations in the United States, has been pointing up the

principal word symbols of the Axis campaign. One day the claim that Soviet losses are "heavy and bloody" will run through German communiques, news broadcasts and official comment. Another day the chief catchwords will be "ring of steel". We pointed these out to the short-wave editors and left it to their judgment whether the symbolic words should be eliminated from American broadcasts.

In an effort to avoid encouraging the use of Axis symbols, the words "new order" are not used in any scripts sent out from here.

Available departmental reports bearing on the economic and political chaos in Europe have been rich sources of news.

The State Department furnished us specific reports of specific places in Germany which have been damaged by British bombings. These made a whole series of broadcasts. While these details could not be attributed to the actual sources,

editors were told that the Coordinator of Information vouched for their accuracy.

Early Friday morning, October 24, 1941, former Ambassador to France, Walter Edge, issued a statement on the celebration of the Anniversary of Montoire, containing an appeal to Frenchmen. The statement also contained some headline-making news on conditions in France. It reached New York in time for the French language broadcasts of all short-wave stations. The full text of the Edge statement was in the offices of the broadcasters early today, October 24. Mr. Edge issued his statement to afternoon newspapers in Atlantic City.

PART III

THE FAR EAST

We have refrained from repeating official statements concerning the Oriental crisis pending further instructions from the State Department.

But in line with these instructions we have collected and forwarded to KGEI, San Francisco, such extra-official comment as the recent statement by Senator Pepper and available polls of American public opinion reflecting the attitude of the American man in the street to Japanese aggressiveness.

In the absence of any other directive, this office has been keeping the pressure on Japan by reiteration, in news stories, of the President's pledge that China will have the materials it needs.

The obvious disunity reflected in Japanese propaganda has encouraged us to play up pro-democratic news wherever we find it.

Through our arrangements with KGEI, in San Francisco, program material originating in this office is re-broadcast by a medium-wave station in Singapore. Therefore, American editorials, reports of public opinion polls, speeches and

magazine articles reflecting a strong anti-aggression sentiment in the United States have been going in a steady flow from here to KGEI.

An example: This week we obtained proof sheets of an article in "Asia", the magazine of the Orient, by Anton Pettenkofer. The title was "Hitler Means to Destroy Japan". We put this article into radio language and sent it to KGEI - one script for a news program and another for a 15-minute feature broadcast.

PSFLD.S.

COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

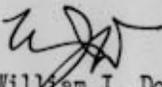
*File
Confidential*

October 31, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

There is transmitted herewith the
weekly summary of Axis radio broadcasts for
the week ending Friday, October 24th.

Respectfully,


William J. Donovan

The President

The White House

REPORT ON AXIS BROADCASTS DURING WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1941

This report concerns Axis broadcasts for the week ending Friday, October 31, 1941, and is based on:

1. Monitoring reports of the Federal Communications Commission.
2. Available information from the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service.
3. Reports of the Columbia Broadcasting System's short-wave listening station and National Broadcasting Company's listening post.
4. Independent listening by the staff of the short-wave intelligence unit of my office.

PART I

The Week's War on the Radio Propaganda Front

Evidence that the Nazi propaganda defenses are, temporarily at least, in a state of disintegration came last night when two Berlin

propagandists answered the President's Navy Day speech with long talks dedicated to the argument that the President is insane.

The day after the President's speech, the Berlin short-wave began to answer with invective. Within the next two days, the President received more concentrated abuse than has been heard in twenty-six months of uninterrupted listening to the Berlin radio. The previous record was held by Winston Churchill in the days after Dunkerque..

At that time, Churchill was called a liar, a cheat, a gambler and a megalomaniac. Never did the Nazi propagandists attempt seriously to establish that he was medically insane.

On Thursday, October 30, two employees of the Nazi propaganda ministry produced what they represented as medical proof of the President's lunacy in their answers to the

Navy Day speech. One was Jane Anderson, who toured the United States in behalf of Franco Spain, and the other was Dr. Otto Koischwitz.

Dr. Koischwitz, a veteran Nazi broadcaster, who once taught at Hunter College in New York, answered the President's statements about the Nazi plans for abolishing the religions of the world by saying:

"How is it possible that the head of a great nation has such silly nonsense in a speech which is supposed to be taken seriously? There is but one explanation. Something is wrong in the mind of the speaker. To put it plainly, a screw is loose.

"I am saying this without wishing to offend or ridicule. It is a cold and entirely unemotional observation. We know from history that great men often stand on the threshold of the insane asylum. . ."

Koischwitz then went on to discuss what he called the "Science of Graphology", and he said: "The silly passages in his (the President's) last speech only confirm an earlier diagnosis based on his erratic handwriting."

The British Broadcasting Corporation's monitoring service reports to us that there has been no all-out attack on the sanity line in home broadcasts but that a Norwegian broadcast from Berlin compared the President's state of mind to that of "the tragic King Ludwig, the 2nd, of Bavaria, six weeks before he was taken to a lunatic asylum."

The fact that Nazi propaganda has gone to such extremes is by all odds the outstanding fourth front news of the war.

It is also noteworthy that the Berlin short-wave stations have felt it worthwhile

to give more attention to the President's speech during this week than to any other single item of news.

It is the first time since the sinking of the Athenia that the German radio has been consistently on the defensive for such a sustained period.

Colonel Donovan also came in for a share of abuse in the Nazi answers to the Navy Day speech. On Tuesday night, German news broadcasts accused Colonel Donovan of having a hand in the President's disclosures about Nazi plans for Latin America. "The office of the political swindler, Donovan, in this case has once more been doing far too clumsy a job", said the Berlin news item.

Notes on Part I

We have been helping short-wave stations in the United States keep up the pressure on the President's Navy Day speech.

Our monitoring of domestic broadcasts has shown that our own short-wave stations have made good use of the follow-up material we have sent them. This material, in the form of editorial comment at home and abroad, is still moving.

For example, we are sending out today an editorial of "The New World", the publication of the Catholic Archdiocese in Chicago, approving the President's speech.

PART II

Other Axis Propaganda Offensives

The other lines of Axis attack evidenced by short-wave listening this week were largely carry-overs from last week.

In the main they were:

1. The Soviet Union is finished; therefore it is useless for the United States to send further help. The other side of that medal is that the Soviet Union is finished because the United States is unable to send help. On the first side, the argument is that "Just as the French campaign was decided at Sudan but did not end for several days thereafter, so is the Soviet campaign finished with the destruction of the Soviet fighting forces." On the other side, the difficulties of transport are emphasized, one

Axis commentator pointing out that "the route to Persia is easily accessible to Japan". The Axis continues to emphasize industrial disputes in the United States, and to seize upon the most adverse criticism of the American defense effort.

2. "The New Order now extends throughout Europe and means world-wide prosperity" Accompanying Axis claims of the completion of the campaign in the Ukraine were broadcast, especially in Spanish and Portuguese, hailing "The New Order" as an accomplished fact throughout the continent. Axis broadcasts to Latin America inferentially included Spain and Portugal in the orbit of "The New Order". The attention of South American farmers was called to the "restoration of their farms" to the Russian peasants. German exploitation of the mineral resources of the Caucasus also was represented in Axis broadcasts as a promise

of prosperity for farmers in Latin America. These farmers, the Axis explained, had been deprived of this source of mechanical production by the Russians who kept all the wealth to themselves. The Berlin and Rome ends of the Axis represented the draining of the Pontine marshes as another example of how well farmers fare under Fascism. Berlin claims that farm workers taken into the occupied areas of the Soviet Union get double pay, fixed prices and "complete religious liberty".

Notes on Part II *

1. This office has obtained and sent to the United States short-wave stations frequent and accurate news about the American defense effort. Monitoring of domestic short-wave stations shows that all transmissions emphasized the fact that American

planes already are fighting on the eastern front. Our own stations also pointed out that Nazi broadcasts were avoiding mention of the Battle of Moscow, whose resistance seemed to be contradicting their assertions that the Soviet campaign was over. We first sent out this information on the German short-wave tactics in connection with our daily propaganda analysis furnished to all short-wave editors.

2. The German propaganda about the prosperity to result from "The New Order" was aimed chiefly at farmers in Latin America.

SUMMARY

COI'S REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

This week was one of major defeat for Fascist propagandists, who were pushed to the last resort of invective.

More attention was given by the Axis radio to the President's speech than to any other single item of news this week. This attention consisted mainly of a record amount of invective that surpassed even the vilest that has ever been hurled at Churchill. High point of this invective was long argument by at least two commentators that the President is insane.

We have followed up this propaganda victory by helping the short wave stations in every way to continue highlighting the President's speech. Follow-up material has consisted of editorial comment, both from home and abroad. Our monitoring shows the stations have made good use of the material we have sent them.

The other lines of Axis short wave attacks this week were largely carry-overs:

- (1) The Soviet is finished; therefore it is useless for the United States to send help;
- (2) The "New Order" now extends throughout Europe and means world-wide prosperity.

We have combatted the first of these Axis lines by providing the short wave stations with frequent and accurate news about the American defense effort. Monitoring of domestic short wave stations showed that all transmissions emphasized that American planes already were fighting on the Eastern Front. Our stations also pointed out the Nazis were avoiding mention of the Battle of Moscow, whose resistance seemed to be contradicting Nazi assertions that the Soviet campaign was over. Information on German short wave tactics was provided all short wave editors in our daily propaganda analysis.

REPORT ON AXIS BROADCASTS DURING WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 7, 1941

This report concerns Axis broadcasts for the week ending Friday, November 7, 1941, and is based on:

1. Monitoring reports of the Federal Communications Commission.
2. Available information from the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service.
3. Reports of the Columbia Broadcasting System's short-wave listening station and National Broadcasting Company's listening post.
4. Independent listening by the staff of the short-wave intelligence unit of my office.

PART I

The Map

Today is the twelfth day since Roosevelt's speech, in which he spoke of a mysterious map of South America. The twelfth day and it still has not

been published. Where is it?"

Thus, day after day, the Italian and the German Government short-wave stations begin their "news" programs to Latin-America.

The Axis broadcasters never mention what the map showed. It is a "Forgery", an "insult", a "reprehensible act of deception." But on the Latin-American beam, it remains a "mysterious" map.

Gradually, Latin-American listeners may be expected to remember the invective and forget the facts.

Notes on Part I

The Axis technique is patterned on the reiteration formula of "where is the Ark Royal?" and "only 14 days to save the American way of life."

The appearance of the Ark Royal, in battle trim, stopped one campaign and an election stopped another.

PART II

The map campaign cannot be so neatly nailed, but it is vulnerable.

I suggest that we let it build up for a few more days, unchallenged.

By the first of next week, it will be time to strike. We won't, of course, contest on the Axis' terms. We will ignore, in the main, the reiterated question.

But we will capitalize on the fact that the Axis has kept the issue alive.

With the assurance that short-wave listeners have not forgotten that the President described a map, we simply restate the facts of the case, giving more specific details about the map, in a newsworthy manner.

The facts will stick.

PART II

Finland--An Axis Weapon

The Germans have been supplying Finland with tanks and planes, but it has not been a one-sided deal. Finland has been supplying the Axis with equally important weapons of warfare--anti-American news. No other source, this week, has furnished the Axis with such a wealth of hurtful propaganda against us.

The Axis propaganda chiefs take the position that Finland is a free agent, fully capable of deciding on its own initiative whether to make war or peace.

To maintain that debatable position, Axis propagandists began this week to emphasize "Finnish successes", usually at unspecified places on the northern front. German and Italian short-wave broadcasts never indicated that the Germans shared

any responsibility for these "sucesses". Both European ends of the Axis put the Finnish "sucesses" second only to those in the Donetz Basin in many of their broadcasts to home listeners. London monitors reported that Budapest, broadcasting in Hungarian, "quoted a survey of the Finnish war, in the course of which, as though apologizing for past neglect, it was said that the military situation on the Finnish front often made it impossible to publish the names and places where fighting takes place". London monitors heard the medium-wave station at Donau fall into line by declaring that "the United States demands to Finland constitute an involuntary admission of the fighting power of the Finnish armies."

On the other flank, Axis propagandists

then denounced "Roosevelt's blackmailing note, worded in gangster language". It was the President, rather than Secretary Hull, who was held responsible for the "shamelessness" of the United States' position. This line, set by a "Wilhelmstrasse spokesman", was supported with a great mass of Collateral detail. Germany quoted the Finnish press as rejecting the Secretary's proposal "with indignant determination." German short-wave broadcasters disclaimed any ability to "predict the actions of the Finnish Government", but added that the Finnish press had "accurately represented" the attitude of the nation as a whole. Nazi propagandists lauded Herbert Hoover's statement of Tuesday night, and quoted Earl Godwin, of NBC, as criticizing the United States associations with "Bloody Joe" against Finland. Where such news pegs were lacking on which to hang anti-American villifications, they were tossed out at random.

This morning, the Berlin short-wave indignantly denied that there was any thought of peace among Finns, and further denied the "stories printed in the American press" indicating that Finland might be considering peace. The fact that the peace story originated--for whatever purpose--with the Finnish radio was ignored completely.

Notes on Part II

This week, two American short-wave stations began daily broadcasts in the Finnish language to Finland. It is the first time that Finns have been able to hear the voice of America in their own language.

The scripts for these broadcasts were instigated by this office. The broadcasts have not deviated from the factual news of the day. Where there was legitimate news and comment

reflecting what seemed to be the American viewpoint
it was included but not exaggerated.

The news has not been favorable, competi-
tively speaking, for our side.

Secretary Hull's statement was news, even
though it dealt with something that had occurred when
the Finnish-Russian situation was quite different
from today. Follow-ups on the Secretary's state-
ment have been difficult to find.

Nevertheless, the fact that the United
States can talk directly to the Finnish people
gives us strength with them. Once we have a clear
policy, we can guarantee it a hearing.

PART III

Shorter Jabs

The Japanese--Tokio radio reached a crescendo of anti-American propaganda the day before Kurusu's departure. On a sample broadcast, half of the news items were about opinions or purported events inimicable to the United States. With the departure of Kurusu, the blasts tempered. Tokio's voice is by no means friendly this morning. It is merely less insulting.

Ambassador Litvinoff--The Soviet Ambassador is represented as "Litvinoff-Finklestein", whose coming to the United States is further proof of the "Jewish-Bolshevist-Plutocratic alliance."

Turkey--The propaganda machinery of Turkey is already at war on the side of Germany. The Turkish radio and the Turkish press provide quotable items for the Axis propagandists to use against democracy. No official Turkish source

contradicts the propaganda ministry.

Notes on Part III

The Japanese-- This week KGKI, in San Francisco, has been able to broadcast considerable press comment, although little official news indicating that the United States means to oppose aggression in the Far East. KGKI programs are rebroadcast on medium-wave in the Far East.

Litvinoff--The Axis attacks on Litvinoff might be considerably reduced in effectiveness if the implications of his appointment could be emphasized. We can't ask our broadcasters to make speeches about collective security after the war. They wouldn't need to be asked to broadcast news on that subject if the news were made by speeches of responsible Americans.

Turkey--Consideration might be given to the issuance of statements to emphasize Turkey's

favorable position under lease-lend. Possibly,
statements might be issued by prominent persons
and government officials to let the world know that
we consider the Government and the people of Turkey
on our side.

file

COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RSP C.S.C.

November 14, 1941

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing the weekly report
on Axis broadcasts for the week ending
November 14, 1941.

Respectfully,

Bill
William J. Donovan

REPORT ON AXIS BROADCASTS DURING WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 14, 1941

This report concerns Axis broadcasts for the week ending Friday, November 14, 1941, and is based on:

1. Monitoring reports of the Federal Communications Commission.
2. Available information from the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service.
3. Reports of the Columbia Broadcasting System's short-wave listening station and National Broadcasting Company's listening post.
4. Independent listening by the staff of the short-wave intelligence unit of my office.

PART I

The Neutrality Act Revision

For weeks, the Axis radio has been trying to prepare its listeners for revision

of the Neutrality Act. To cushion the inevitable shock, thick defensive padding was indicated, and, in a last minute effort to meet the impact head-on, an offensive spurt started up the morning of the vote, and continued in Axis propaganda today.

The defensive cushions have been explicit for weeks. The President of the United States personified Axis enemies. He was diagnosed as medically insane. His actions were represented as deeds of an irresponsible, Jewish-inspired, power-hungry warmonger. On short-wave broadcasts to the United States, the President usually was pictured as a foolish tool in the hands of Churchill and Stalin. Axis broadcasts beamed to Britain called him Churchill's master. cunningly contriving to make the British Empire "a forty-ninth American state".

London monitors report that the "forty-ninth state" argument was kept off all Berlin broadcasts aimed at German or continental listeners, but was used by "Lord Haw Haw" and others, speaking to England in English only.

The principal cushions were the persistent "news" stories designed to show that American help would be too little and too late to save the Soviet Union. These came in statements from Axis "official quarters", from Fascist-controlled newspapers, from American isolationists, and in the "victory" communiques and military comments tending to establish that the Russians were whipped. (See further details on this in Part II.)

The attempt to get into motion offensively started at 8:15 a.m. (EST) Thursday, November 13. At that time a Berlin propaganda spokesman heralded a fresh sea drive with new arms against Britain. He gave six reasons why "fluctuations

in sinkings are but natural", and eight reasons why "British losses will sooner or later decide the Battle of the Atlantic against Great Britain". At the same time, "German sources close to the Wilhelmstrasse" gave out a similar story stressing the same points, and it appeared on the front pages of some American newspapers next day, expertly timed to appear alongside stories of the passage of the Neutrality revision amendment.

A Sidelight

It seems apparent that the Axis "line" on the Neutrality Act was prepared in advance of its passage, and sent to all Axis controlled broadcasters. This is indicated by the fact that Paris Radio, at 1 p.m. (EDT) Thursday, jumped the guns by three hours and twenty minutes and announced that the Act had been amended. Paris treated the news in the same way that other Axis stations treated it after the vote was taken. Berlin waited until next morning to break the news.

On medium-wave, Axis broadcasters took the line that "this step toward war was wished for by Roosevelt, who supported it with every imaginable means. In a theatrical letter, Roosevelt made a last minute attempt to put the members of the Congress under pressure and to influence their vote."

On short-wave this morning, about fourteen seconds of the fifteen-minute news periods from Berlin are allowed for the statement that the Act has been amended. The next full minute is then devoted to denunciations of the President and the Secretary of State for the "poor tricks" they are alleged to have employed to obtain passage.

After tonight and for many nights henceforth, we undoubtedly shall hear frequent references to the closeness of the vote in the House. The Axis probably will not hit this very hard at first, since the dramatic fact of the Administration

victory would tend to discredit such collateral argument now. After the headlines have shrunk, the argument may be expected to have more force.

Notes on Part I

In a monitoring analysis sent to all short-wave editors this morning, we pointed out that the Berlin stories about the new and larger "packs" of U-boats seemed to be the German attempt to offset the impact of the Neutrality Act revision.

This enabled American short-wave editors to put the Berlin story in its proper perspective. They merely reported the news; i.e., that Berlin started this line on the morning the vote was to be taken, and the Berlin "news" was believed to be an attempt to offset the Nazi defeat.

All during the past week, this office has concentrated on peeling back the Axis defensive cushions and jabbing where it hurts.

Broadcasts written here in Czech, Swedish, Finnish and Italian have juxtaposed the German

statements about the "inexorable crushing" of the "beaten enemy" with documented stories about Soviet counter-attacks. News stories sent to short-wave editors have emphasized the useful facts which Nazi short-wave broadcasters omit. Furthermore, on the basis of our monitoring, some editors have pointed out these omissions as newsworthy in themselves. The State Department and the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce have provided useful, factual reports on actual conditions in Europe. (For further details see Part II.) Press comments from newspapers throughout the country have been predominantly Anti-Axis, and this fact is reflected in our frequent editorial roundups. OEM and OPM news releases, processed and translated for broadcasting, have emphasized the increasing power and confidence of the United States.

We have been unable so far to obtain a daily United States communique, giving an informed and unbiased appraisal of the military

situation. This is projected, however, to build confidence in our own broadcasts and to offset the anxiety caused by the conflicting reports put out by the Axis and their other enemies.

PART II

The New Order

By the end of last week, it was patent
that Axis propaganda had laid the lines for
a declaration of peace by Hitler. Axis broad-
casts for weeks had declared that the war in
the East was ended. A United Press dispatch
from Vichy last week spoke of the possibility
of Hitler's calling a second "Congress of
Vienna" to fix the destinies of Europe for a
thousand years. Rome mentioned that there
was discussion of such a Congress in Berlin.
According to some reports of Hitler's speech,
he denied that Germany would launch a "peace
offensive". But he did not deny that the
men in charge of the governments of Europe's
prisoner nations might themselves meet and
declare peace. The British wireless reported
that the Congress of Vienna had been delayed
because one of the prisoner countries had re-
fused to participate. (Until we hear that one

of the prisoner governments has been "reorganized", we may doubt that one of them held out against participating.)

Axis news of fighting stressed "mopping up" rather than offensive activity. Hitler's speech, which obtained a monopoly of radio news time on the weekend, followed the same pattern.

Commentaries on Hitler's speech stressed the "inevitable" victory of Germany, and spoke glowingly of the peace that will follow. An example from Berlin in English at 8:15 p.m., November 10th:

"The Fuehrer declared that it was not a question when, but how, the war would end, and he left no doubt whatever that it would, under no circumstances, end in a repetition of 1918, but that regardless of the length of the war the last battalion in the field would be German."

For days thereafter, the German radio reported that the "Fuehrer's speech made the strongest kind of impression throughout the world". It emphasized that United States newspapers displayed the news of the speech under big headlines, and quoted fulsome praise of it from Fascist newspapers and press associations.

Dr. Walter Funk's defense of the Nazi monetary system (indicating that suggestions of impending inflation were reaching their mark) received unflagging attention.

Favorable comment on "the New Order" from newspapers in Bulgaria, Turkey, Spain and France were quoted as reflecting the sentiments of these countries.

If one listened only to Axis broadcasters (as some people must do), they would have learned that the "New Order" was established and running smoothly.

Notes on Part II

For the past seven days, this office has been attempting to obtain a news-making statement labeling Hitler's Congress of Vienna. It was hoped that if it could be given a bad name before it was called, it might never convene. "Hocus-pocus Conclave" and "Punch and Judy Conference" were among the first suggestions.

The news-producing statement has not yet come through, but Winston Churchill's remarks about the Nazi peace offensive may have served for the present.

Meanwhile, this office has emphasized that the defeat of the Soviet Union, on which the Axis propaganda is predicated, is by no means accomplished, and has demonstrated the disorders of the "New Order" in verified news stories.

The Departments of State, Agriculture and Commerce have provided many news-worthy announcements

about conditions on the continent, and these, translated and processed for broadcasting, have gone to the short-wave editors. The news has been specific, such as that from the Department of Agriculture on the potato shortage, and about the shortage of fuel in Italy. OCM and OPM "Defense Roundups" have presented dramatically the extent of the American war effort.

PART III

Roosevelt, Churchill, King George and Stalin
Speeches

The Axis has found itself in the discouraging position this week of having to answer three important declarations without quoting specifically from any of them.

The following report, sent to short-wave stations by this office, explains the dilemma:

Monitoring reports of German home broadcasting stations show the German people are not being told the substance of speeches by Roosevelt, the King of England and Churchill.

German propagandists on the home stations attempt to refute the speeches without telling what the speakers said.

Deutschlandsender, Germany's domestic network, said in a news broadcast last night:

"The Plutocratic Bolshevik community-of-souls has found a new spokesman in the person of his Britannic Majesty.

"The King thought it suitable to welcome cordially, as allies, Stalin and the Soviet Union. The utterances of England's King are only part of a bragging assistance with which Churchill wishes to console Stalin for lack of real help from the Plutocrats."

A "political review" on another Nazi home station said:

"Churchill's reputation as a speaker has stimulated Roosevelt and he too had to say something, and made another speech yesterday. But we cannot afford to discuss this speech in detail either."

For the rest, German reaction was largely invective.

Notes on Part III

American newspapers and broadcasters usually

print the news of such speeches one day, with reaction and comment the next. Thereupon the subject is practically closed.

Since many short-wave listeners dare not tune in every day, we are making consistent efforts to keep news of important Anti-Axis speeches before the world audience as long as possible. If we fail, short-wave listeners will hear the Axis side of the case for many days after our side may be forgotten.

We therefore have made it a policy to obtain follow-ups on all these declarations, and to quote a wide range of newspapers for several days thereafter.

PART IV

Regarding Japan

On November 8, the Tokyo radio started reporting that "Americans are showing anxiety" over reports that the President was going to recall American marines from Shanghai. By November 12, "American Nationals expressed excitement" at the reported withdrawal.

There was a new report almost daily from a different Chinese city, under a Shanghai dateline. The report was that "a tense atmosphere now prevails in the international settlement...over reports reaching here that the United States Government is considering the withdrawal of American marines now stationed at Peking, Tientsin and Shanghai".

At this writing there has been no reaction from Japan to the President's order of today, but there seems little doubt that the move will be represented as a sign of American weakness

toward Japan.

For the rest, Japanese propaganda this week has been as nervous as a plane tree in an earthquake.

A monitor in Shanghai cables, "Almost pleadingly, Tokyo radio tells world Kurusu's mission is symbolic Japan's desire proreal peace Pacific Stop Its present tone is reminiscent Japan's bewilderment after the signing Russo-German Pact August Nineteen Thirty-nine, when she openly asked profriends". He adds that "Japan's recent propaganda has lost much its Nazi flavor, lending color hints that Otts Fifth Column organization Tokyowards losing grip".

The intensity of Japanese belligerency toward the United States on short-wave broadcasts did not diminish as dramatically. Broadcasts beamed here have been consistently inconsistent in tone - "Japan has only peaceful intentions toward the United States", and "Japan is ready to knock the U.S.A. for a goal".

Monitors in the Far East also hear

Japan talking with two voices on the medium-wave broadcasts, domestic consumption, and on the short-wave broadcasts beamed to Central Indo-China and Siam. On the first, spokesmen stress the urgent need for rationing, for fortitude and for unity. On the others, Japan is prepared fully for "any eventuality".

Notes on Part IV

For several weeks we have sought a firm statement of American policy toward Japan, but the rule seemed to be "Keep 'Em Guessing". There has never been any suggestion that we refrain from keeping on the pressure by quoting from American news sources. Tolischus' cable in the New York Times that the Nazis are a "third visible party, present whenever American and Japanese statesmen meet" was processed for broadcasting and sent to KGEI. Other American press comment was treated in like manner - as news.

The Secretary of State's clear statement about the German propaganda announcement of 3,000 American soldiers going to the Burma Road successfully drove that item out of Axis broadcasts.

Yesterday, the first of a daily script in Chinese was airmailed to KGEI from here. We find it impossible to teletype Chinese, so the scripts are written to remain fresh after a transcontinental airplane ride.

PART V

Shorter Takes

A. Finland. The answer to the United States' note brought huzzas from Berlin, where it was first announced.

Finland remains the most important single propaganda bludgeon of the Axis. Their broadcasters picture the United States as a bully. Other small nations are urged to take warning.

B. Turkey. German use of Turkey as a propaganda weapon has not diminished this week. By frequent quotations from Fascist-inclined newspapers and the Turkish radio, the impression is maintained that Turkey is in the Axis camp, irrevocably.

Today, the German radio said that Prime Minister Saracoglu "stressed before a parliamentary group the unfavorable impressions two Turkish generals gained of Soviet resistance",

while on a tour of the front. A typical propaganda offensive weapon.

Notes on Part V

A. Finland. Our broadcasts in Finnish and Swedish, written here, emphasize that sympathetic Americans are turning against a Government which permits Finland to be used as a Nazi tool.

Next week we will have an even stronger news story on this subject.

Our news demonstrating the fate of small countries which ally themselves with Hitler do not need to mention Finland.

It was news, based on short-wave listening, when Berlin scooped the Finns on their answer.

It was also news when Joseph Curran urged the Finns to stop fighting.

It would be most helpful if our Government's philosophy vis-a-vis Finland could be stated

officially and often. Until it is, we must
take the worst of it from the Axis.

B. Turkey. "Silence is the rule on
Turkey" is our directive.

*PSF
C.O.I.*

COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*file
personal*

November 21, 1941

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing the weekly report
on Axis broadcasts for the week ending
November 21, 1941.

Respectfully,

Bill

William J. Donovan

REPORT ON AXIS BROADCASTS DURING WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 21, 1941

This report concerns Axis broadcasts for the week ending Friday, November 21, 1941, and is based on:

1. Monitoring reports of the Federal Communications Commission.
2. Available information from the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service.
3. Reports of the Columbia Broadcasting System's short-wave listening station and National Broadcasting Company's listening post.
4. Independent listening by the staff of the short-wave intelligence unit of my office.

PART I

Last Weekend's Victory

Good news feeds democratic morale, and for many weeks Axis radio propagandists have

contrived to starve little-d democrats over weekends. Workaday problems offer less competition for the attention of the average listener on weekends - and weekends are the times usually chosen by the Axis for starting new offensives, fanfaring "victory" communiques and launching psychological drives.

Last weekend, the Axis probably expected to use the sinking of the Ark Royal as a depressant. But the British, with superb timing, announced the loss of the carrier before the weekend news lull started. This time the British did not wait for all the details. Their announcement went out over the air before (or so they said) it was established how many of the crew had been saved. Thus the German announcement that it was a German submarine which did the job as an anti-climax, and the British disclosure that all but one of the crew was safe gave an upturn to anxious democrats' morale.

It was the United States Navy Department, however, that really made last weekend worthwhile to our side. The capture of the Odenwald captured radio and newspaper headlines, and the announcement that it was an "Axis" ship - nationality unspecified - provided just enough mystery to keep imaginations working.

The Axis radio hasn't gotten into stride on this salient yet.

First they tried to ignore the Odenwald issue, then to confuse it, next to ridicule it, and finally to justify it. The justification was an oblique suggestion that the British "started" disguising ships.

The confusion technique was most interesting. In a Berlin short wave broadcast in German on the morning of the 17th, there was one item occupying 40 seconds of time and crammed with these statements - that draft deferments in the United States were being made more severe, with

no exemptions for dependents, that warmongers in New York had attempted a war scare by staging air raid defense exercises, and that culminating these "scare reports" was "the rumor of a German ghost ship in the Carribean". The short item concluded with a ringing denunciation of the "ghost ship" story, which Mexican maritime officials were supposed to have called "mere fantasy".

We have never heard the word Odenwald on any Axis broadcast. Neither have medium wave monitors in England.

Notes on Part I

We suggested that the Odenwald be towed into New York Harbor for repairs, and that it arrive on a Sunday afternoon. Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers will line the waterfront and cheer as the crippled masquerader comes up the river, the falsely painted American flags plainly visible from the shore.

Let the newsreel cameras grind, the radio
announcers call the spectacle play-by-play.
Linguists will rebroadcast the show by short
wave in a dozen languages, and perhaps pamphlets
with photographs of the scene may flutter down
over Germany. It won't be necessary to stage-
manage this. Who wouldn't scramble for a place
in the front row for such a spectacle?

We have suggested that a spokesman for
each of the principal executive offices be
designated to hold himself available for
comment over weekends so that Axis propaganda
offensives will not be unopposed until Monday.

PART II

The Libyan "Second Front"

The Axis finally got itself unscrambled this morning on the British drive into Libya.

Monitoring reports from London indicate that the Axis stations couldn't even get together on when the British drive started, and while Berlin's radio repulsed the attack "with heavy losses" almost before it had begun, the Italians came on the air an hour later to say the battle was still "raging".

The first Axis report on Libya came early Thursday from Vichy, which announced that German troops had repulsed the British attack, and that "a deluge of rain prevented a continuation of the attack".

A few hours later, Rome came on with the Italian communique, stating that "the battle continues on a front of 150 kilometers".

Next came Berlin, with a communique saying

that the British had been repelled west of Sidi Omar. Rome added subsequently that the first British advance of 50 miles was not really an advance, but a march "to establish contact". No comment on the second British communique.

Rome said the attack began on Wednesday. Berlin said Tuesday. Vichy didn't say.

London monitoring commented: "Thereafter both German and Italian broadcasters pulled themselves together, and announced they were awaiting future developments with confidence."

This morning there is coordination between the Axis short wave stations to the point of monotony.

The jointly proclaimed line now is: first, the Libyan attack does not open a second front, and will not satisfy Stalin; second, it is not a military, but a political

operation, designed to pacify those
discontented with Britain's efforts;
third, it will fail anyway.

Many Axis newscasts ignore Libya
altogether. Others give it the least
conspicuous place on the program. None
dwell on it.

Notes on Part II

Until we get a clear statement of
intentions and probabilities from the
British, we do not anticipate any extra
exploitation by short wave of the Libyan
move. The news is good enough. British
stories out of Cairo stress American mater-
ial participation.

We are now renewing our requests to
OPM for broadcastable figures on the extent
of American participation. We believe there
must be news of this kind which would be
more helpful to us than to the enemy, if

the Libyan offensive is not going to be like
the Noble Duke of York's. We will not use
the American aid idea too much until it is
clear that American aid is not "too little
and too late".

PART III

Finland

The Axis' use of Finland as a propaganda bludgeon has been reported many times before, and was the subject of a special report last Sunday.

This week it continued to serve the Nazis well.

The Soviet Government's declaration on the Finnish question brought loud and frequent rebuttals, although the text of the Soviet note never was disclosed by Axis broadcasters.

It is striking how well the statements in the Finnish press and the resolutions passed by Finnish groups coincide with the Nazi line.

For example, a broadcast from Berlin this week told of a "youth celebration" in Finland, at which it was declared that Finnish youth was firmly determined to fight to the bitter end. But there was a Philip, coinciding with

Dr. Goebbels' articles in Das Reich -- and the youth group solemnly determined that "no man could say when that end would arrive".

The unspecified victories on the northern front again have become victories of "German and Finnish forces". When Germany had victory stories to spare, and when Secretary of State Hull's note was applying pressure, the victories in the north were exclusively those of "Finnish troops".

Notes on Part III

Our use of Finnish news, or news impinging on the Finnish question, has been extended rather fully to broadcasts prepared in other languages. There is still a lack of State Department news.

The "better news" promised last week developed into an editorial written by the editor of the leading Finnish newspaper in the United States.

The editorial quoted from Ludendorff's

Memoirs, and showed him to have stated categorically that Germany helped Finland obtain her freedom in 1918, not because of interest in either Finland or freedom, but rather in Germany's interest only.

A 15-minute script was prepared on the basis of the editorial, and it was broadcast in Finnish over two American short wave stations. Good use also was made of it in Swedish broadcasts.

Our Radio Division recorded an hour's program in Finnish, arranged and broadcast domestically by W. J. Richards of Station WJR in Detroit, in cooperation with leading Finnish-Americans. The recording was re-dubbed and sent to the short wave licensees for re-broadcast to Finland.

PART IV

Iceland

The murder case in Iceland, as expected, was most welcome to Axis propagandists. They had been reporting "atrocities" stories from Iceland for weeks, and now they had a real fact.

The Axis continually assures the world that the United States never, never will withdraw from Iceland.

To escape the brutal Americans, says Berlin, many Icelandic fishermen are withdrawing from their homes and hiding in the lava fields.

Notes on Part IV

The War Department produced a useful human interest story about U. S. forces in Iceland.

The Maritime Commission has been asked to release a ship which can make a Christmas voyage to Iceland, filled half with gifts for

the troops and half with gifts for the
Icelandic peoples.

There is in progress a plan to bring
broadcasts to the United States directly
from Iceland. Technical and diplomatic
delays persist on this.

PART V

"Mopping-up" in the U.S.S.R.

Several weeks ago, the Axis broadcasters agreed solemnly that the Russian campaign was over, and that only mopping-up operations remained.

With the exception of the capture of Kerch, which was announced (prematurely) last Sunday by short wave and immediately overshadowed by the capture of Odenwald, there has been a notable lack of crowing all week.

Now and again Berlin broadcasters break out with announcements of "break throughs" and "bloody losses to the beaten enemy", but the reports lack detail -- and conviction.

There seems to be a great effort to represent winter as an ally of the Germans rather than otherwise. This morning, one Berlin announcer's foot slipped, and he said that,

even if Moscow reports of German troops freezing to death were true, the cases would be unusual (like rain in the California rainy season?); most of the German troops, he said, were well equipped to stand the cold, and were seasoned by previous campaigns.

Dr. Goebbels' articles in Das Reich about the long war have been quoted more frequently on medium wave broadcasts than on short wave. The Axis now has an ingenious argument that the longer the war, the surer will be its victory, but I spare you the tortured details.

There has been a reappearance of the "Bolshevist menace" line, subordinated for several weeks. Once again Germany is fighting a defensive war.

Example: "The Bolsheviks were ready to hurl themselves on Europe (sic), when Hitler anticipated their nefarious plans"-

from Berlin in Spanish, via short wave, last night."

Notes on Part V

Our analyses of enemy short wave propaganda, teletyped to short wave editors, have pointed out this trend from day to day. American short wave stations have capitalized on it and have been keeping on the pressure - both by detailing the signs of defensive propaganda required of the Axis, and by acting affirmatively.

The affirmative action comes mainly through the emphasis on the growing strength and confidence of the United States, and our inexorable overhauling of the Axis lead in production of war equipment.

This office has been able to provide short wave editors with a constant flow of information on this subject, both in spot news and in special features such as "defense

roundups" and press reviews.

Scripts written in this office or in the Washington office are delivered to short wave stations, at their request, in these languages: English, German, French, Spanish, Czech, Swedish, Finnish, Italian, Cantonese and Mandarin.

PART VI

Shorter Takes

A. The Winter.

German broadcasts, bragging about the plentitude of food and fuel in Europe, are superfluous evidence that this may be a morale-shattering winter for the Germans. One Nazi boast that 23 million tons of potatoes would be made available to the population gave us an opening.

Notes on A

We passed on the Nazi boast to short wave editors and followed it up with a Washington story about the actual shortages of potatoes in Europe this year. Together, this made real news and it went bouncing back to the Germans from our short wave stations in a matter of hours.

B. Turkey

Previous reports have shown how the Axis uses Turkey for propaganda purposes, aided by

a complaisant Turkish propaganda minister.

The Axis tells the world, including Turkey, that Turkey is practically one of the family.

Notes on B

In progress is a project for the preparation of a 15-minute historical broadcast about Fritz von Papen. Our plea for a shipload of American supplies, right through the Mediterranean to Istanbul, has not yet received the requisite green light.

C. Weygand

The Axis ignored the dismissal of General Weygand until our State Department issued the declaration that his dismissal would require a review of American-French North African relations. Then it said that he "resigned" and played up his message of loyalty to Marshal Petain. Rome commented that "because of the retirement of General Weygand, Anglo-American propaganda has been showing great discontent".

His retirement is not specifically explained, but there is great emphasis on the statement that he is going to resume work on his memoirs. Careful attention to the phrasing is necessary not to gain the impression that the press of his literary commitments called the General back from Africa.

Notes on C

We suffered some confusion on Wednesday in trying to help the State Department verify reports of Weygand's dismissal without being able to say who was verifying it. On Thursday we recovered all lost ground and more by moving the story of the State Department's announcement in time for the French schedules of the four short wave stations broadcasting to France. The story broke shortly before air time, and the State Department telephoned it to this office, where it was translated sentence by sentence and rammed through ahead of the deadlines. WGEA was so pleased with the service

that they scheduled an extra broadcast in French to carry our follow-ups on the story.

State Department cooperation enabled us to score what was the equivalent of a 24-hour beat, since stations broadcasting to Europe have French language schedules only in the early afternoon.

REPORT ON AXIS BROADCASTS DURING WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 28, 1941

This report concerns Axis broadcasts
for the week ending Friday, November 28, 1941
and is based on:

1. Monitoring reports of the Federal
Communications Commission.
2. Available information from the British
Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service.
3. Reports of the Columbia Broadcasting
System's short-wave listening station and National
Broadcasting Company's listening post.
4. Independent listening by the staff of
the short-wave intelligence unit of my office.

PART I

The Score

In propaganda fighting, the United States
has, historically, been a big genial sparring
partner, distinguished principally for our ability
to take it on the point of a concrete chin.

So, this week, when the United States has actually begun to paw back at our assailant, the temptation was overwhelming to shout "Hooray".

There were some pretty unhappy moments. Our timing is faulty, our footwork clumsy, and we still have a way of jabbing our thumb in our own eye. But we're learning how to push the other fellow off balance when he is getting set to throw his Sunday punch, and we're beginning to throw a few good ones of our own.

On the propaganda plus side this week were:

The White House statement about the forthcoming Berlin conferences.

Settlement of the coal strike.

Occupation of the Bauxite mines in Dutch Guiana.

The White House statement about Nazi plans to raze Belgrade.

Our firmer attitude toward Japan.

Authenticated riots in Copenhagen.

Lease-Lend aid to General De Gaulle.

On the propaganda minus side:

The Libyan campaign--(oversold)

Our official silence about
Finland.

Our official silence about
Turkey.

Our official silence about
Vichy.

Our official silence about the
Battle of the Atlantic.

PART II

The Anti-Comintern Conclave

When the stool-pigeons and the trustees from the prisoner nations of Europe met with the wardens in Berlin this week, propaganda history was made.

The historic significance of the anti-Comintern conclave was not the solemn document signed by the members of this kangaroo court, but rather the election, by fiat, of the President of the United States as the No. One enemy of chain-gang government.

On the short-wave broadcasts for listeners outside of Europe, and on medium-wave for home consumption, the Axis propagandists actually gave more vehement attention to the President than to Josef Stalin or Winston Churchill.

The purpose of the meeting was announced in advance as anti-Comintern.

The anti-Bolsheviki motif dominated Axis

broadcasts for the first few days of the week, but by this morning the emphasis had changed so radically that only the name recalled the announced purpose.

The broadcasters make it quite plain that the purpose of the meeting was to make a show of opposition to all who oppose Adolph Hitler's "New Order in Europe."

Newspaper headlines cabled from the Continent this morning show that the order has gone out from Propaganda Headquarters that the affirmative line henceforth is to be "A United States of Europe" under Germany, "A New League of Nations", under Germany--and "The New Order is Here."

On the defensive line, the President of the United States will now inherit the choice invectives previously reserved for Mr. Churchill.

Mere quantitative analysis of Axis broadcasts this week make any qualitative study unnecessary. For example, one short-wave news broadcast from Berlin gave 25 minutes to reporting on the anti-Comintern conference, and less than five minutes to all other news of the world. Three of the four main short-wave propaganda talks on Thursday night were devoted to denunciations of Mr. Roosevelt.

London monitors counted medium-wave talks, descriptions and analyses of the meeting on 89 occasions yesterday over radio stations from Donau to Friesland, and estimated that seven and a half hours of broadcasting time were devoted to it on that day alone.

A sample of the affirmative line, from DJA, Berlin, in German, at 5:45 P.M., November 27:

"In reality, the Berlin discussions went above the framework of a reconstitution and enlargement of the anti-

Comintern front. Europe's statesmen and those of the Far East had the opportunity of entering into a valuable exchange of ideas about the future of their continents. The main goal was to create a vital basis for Europe, to safeguard the Fatherland, and mutually to install themselves there so that a life of prosperity for all (for the totality) and for every one individually might be guaranteed."

Notes on Part II

The prediction issued by Steve Early last Saturday couldn't have been better.

The BBC poured it into the Continent on medium-wave and American short-wave stations, who had been informed frequently by this office that a German conclave was in the making, grabbed it with enthusiasm and used it in their news broadcasts and news commentaries.

The Axis was glumly silent.

When the Axis announcement was heard from Berlin and Rome next day, short-wave listeners

already were prepared, and the air of suspense that usually is created around such meetings did not appear.

Throughout the week, American short-wave editors chose to present the news of the anti-Comintern meeting against the backdrop of their previous information.

When the Axis subordinated news of the fighting in Libya and Russia to the anti-Comintern news, American short-wave editors found this fact newsworthy, too.

It was the best example of spoiling a Sunday punch that we have yet seen.

The White House statement about Nazi plans to raze Belgrade was on page 11 in the New York Times, but it was front page stuff on short-wave. British and American stations pumped it so hard that Berlin was forced to broadcast a denial.

Whether or not it saved Belgrade, it certainly put the Axis propagandists on the defensive, and forced them to give further circulation to the story by denying it.

We were able to tell short-wave editors that the anti-Comintern riots in Copenhagen were verified by official sources in Washington. The story originated in Washington, but came out from Swedish and New York sources--an example of what can be done when we have reliable information from unquotable sources.

PART III

The Troops to Dutch Guiana

The Axis response to this positive action by the United States was diffused.

The first reaction was to shout of "American imperialism."

To France, Berlin and Rome-emphasized that the Proximity of French Guiana was the real reason for the United States Action.

To Holland and the Dutch Empire, the Axis spoke of the "weakness" of Dutch Government, and ridiculed its inability to protect the Empire.

Pre-occupation with the anti-Comintern meeting reduced Axis pre-occupation with this and other news outside Berlin.

Notes on Part III

Having no advance warning of the nature of the White House statement, this office was unable to prepare texts in time for the Dutch-language

broadcasts of that day, with the result that Axis answers may have reached some Dutch listeners before the White House statement.

We were able, however, to foretell the Axis line with accuracy, and to advise short-wave editors what to expect. This provided them an opportunity to play up refutation of the Axis line in advance of its appearance.

PART IV

The Libyan Campaign

The Axis has maneuvered for position in handling propaganda about the Libyan campaign. Apparently the Axis is as poorly informed on the situation there as are others.

There were early indications that Axis propagandists were taken unawares. Rome and Berlin couldn't get together on when the attack started, and their short-wave and medium-wave broadcasts have told different stories--the home broadcasts favoring the optimistic Italian commentaries, while short-wave was more reserved.

Once it became apparent that there would be no blitz, Rome and Berlin gave more and more time to the political aspects of the attack and less to the military aspects. They stressed Britain's political need for a second front, and jeered at

Churchill's optimistic introductory. The optimism of the BBC provided much sardonic mirth to Axis broadcasters.

Almost daily, there is a new Axis claim of having taken the offensive.

Obviously, however, the raggedness of the Axis propaganda on this salient--which might be a most favorable one for them--has come from the fact that much of its propaganda policy seems to be made in Rome. There is no indication of the clean-cut, military precision which characterizes a German propaganda campaign.

Notes on Part IV

We were unable to get any responsible neutral estimate of the prospects of the British in Libya, and so this was one campaign where we resisted the impulse to do something.

The contribution of this office has been confined to seeking reliable estimates of American

contribution to the British campaign.

We have avoided fostering any indication that American production would underwrite a British victory in Libya.

The statement by General Burns to the effect that Libya would provide only a test of what was to come was our sole affirmative contribution.

We have immediately begun the preparation of a special news broadcast in the Finnish language based on Mr. Hull's statement. The Broadcast will be written and translated here, and moved by teletype to Schenectady. The Western Electric short-wave station has agreed to broadcast it from there over stations WGEO and WGEA this afternoon. The regular Finnish-language broadcasts are over for the day, but the Schenectady stations have scheduled a special 15-minute period for this

*file
present*

COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*PF
C.O.D.*

December 5, 1941

The President

The White House

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing the weekly
report on Axis broadcasts for the
week ending December 5, 1941.

Respectfully,

Bill

William J. Donovan

Enc.

REPORT ON AXIS BROADCASTS DURING WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 5, 1941

This report concerns Axis broadcasts for the week ending Friday, December 5, 1941, and is based on:

1. Monitoring reports of the Federal Communications Commission.
2. Available information from the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service.
3. Reports of the Columbia Broadcasting System's short-wave listening station and National Broadcasting Company's listening post.
4. Independent listening by the staff of the short-wave intelligence unit of my office.
5. Analysis of other available news from Axis sources.

PART I

The Score

For Axis propagandists, this has been one of the sourest weeks of the war.

They were temporarily on the alkaline side in Libya and Finland. But Rostov, Tokio, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Trieste, and the North Atlantic caused acute discomfort.

Plus Paragraphs

Rostov. A brief report on Rostov writhings is in Part III.

Tokio. There was no comfort for Berlin, Rome or Vichy in the firm stand taken by the United States toward Japan. The President's abrupt return from Warm Springs topped weekend front pages. Tokio radio muttered menacingly on medium wave, but short-wave shouting was softer.

Yugoslavia. The issuance of Serbian military communiques in Cairo put the Chetniks,

propagandistically, in full dress battle.

News did the rest.

Turkey. The President's extension of lease-lend assistance to Turkey, following the apparent failure of the Schmidt mission, dressed the Turks in democratic uniforms.

Trieste. A suspicious performance at best, but certainly one which did the Axis no good on the international propaganda front.

North Atlantic. The statement by the Secretary of the Navy reminded anyone who might have forgotten this crucial battle-front that lack of headlines may be the best possible news.

Minus Paragraphs

Pétain-Goering. The "soldierly" meeting of these gentlemen produced copy for the Axis broadcasters, and there was no good news for Frenchmen from the United States to offset it.

Finland. Little-D democrats were enjoying their good news from other fronts, and no one warned them that they may have to accept a tough decision from Britain and the United States. Its propagandists invested the action of the Finnish Parliament with historic significance.

The Axis capitalized on our official silence. The Soviet withdrawal from Hangoe was dramatized as if it had been Gibraltar.

PART II

The War in Libya

Axis grand strategists expect an Axis defeat in Libya.

It is difficult to be positive about the magnitude of their pessimism, but analysis of Axis propaganda this week leaves no doubt that their strategists are working on the minds of Fascists and Democrats alike to prepare them for the worst.

Out of the military defeat - whether it be local or extensive - the Axis apparently hopes to establish two propaganda victories:

1. The destruction of the belief that United States war material is good enough to turn the tide of Fascist victory.

2. Disaffection among the British colonies and dominions.

Axis propagandists have failed to capitalize on the grumminess felt in the

democratic world by the military news from Libya this week. We find news of Libya taking inferior positions on both domestic and short-wave broadcasts. There is a conspicuous lack of tough talk.

When British communiques report that the military situation is confused, Axis propagandists hasten to read long paragraphs about "British confusion". Radio Roma pumps itself up to a hysterical pitch about "Libyan victories" now and again, then lapses into moody silence, or reads the German communiques and DNE dispatches--deadpan.

The Italian propagandists robbed themselves of a chance to crow about the severing of the Tobruk corridor, because they had not previously admitted that it existed.

When the BBC admitted that things were not going so well in Libya as had been expected, the Axis attacked "British propaganda",

but did not risk the next logical step of making some better claims for itself.

Even when the news is best for them, Axis broadcasters stick to their strategy plan of the first week: (a) This is a political, not a military offensive; (b) Its success or failure will have no decisive effect on the outcome of the war; (c) The offensive will fail anyway -- without definition of the term "fail".

It was an Italian broadcaster who untagged the cat on the anticipated plan to discredit United States war material. For the first weeks of the campaign, the Axis ignored completely the statements from Britain and the United States about the participation of American-made tanks in the desert fighting. It would have been wholly in character for them to continue to ignore it, without or with evidence, or to state flatly that the

pitifully few American-made tanks there were proving inferior.

But, oddly enough, the Axis propagandists did neither.

Instead, the Italian radio one day included in its military reports from Libya the statement that American-made tanks were participating in the fighting. And then the broadcaster, quite unequivocally, declared that Libya would be the testing ground for American war material.

Unless there had been assurance that the Axis stood a good chance of making effective propaganda out of subsequent statements that American materials were inferior, it is extremely doubtful that Libya would be represented as a testing ground.

Unless the Axis anticipated a serious campaign to discredit American war materials, the more obvious courses of complete silence

or noisy bluff might have been expected.

On the plan to use Libya to create disaffection among British colonies and dominions, there is abundant evidence. The British play up the bravery of Empire Forces. The Axis emphasizes their losses.

Australia's refusal to impose conscription outside that continent becomes, in Axis propaganda, a sign of discontent with England.

British amnesty to political prisoners in India becomes a sign of fear. British support of the United States in the Far East becomes, on one hand, an attempt to distract attention from the "defeats in Libya"; on the other hand, it is given as evidence of England's willingness to plunge her Eastern subjects into a reckless adventure.

But in none of this is there the slightest indication that the Axis expects to escape

some measure of military defeat in Libya.

Notes on Part II

Because we are without facts about British objectives, and because the presence of German stories in the front line seems to have made the going unpredictable, this office has not attempted to obtain any affirmative information on the Libyan campaign for short-wave editors.

PART III

Rostov

The military retreat of the Germans from Rostov was a dignified procession compared to the resultant rout of Axis propagandists.

On November 22, with military fanfares, the German radio system blared the capture of Rostov, and Axis commentators tub-thumped the importance of "the spigot of the Russian oil barrel" and "the gateway to the Caucasus".

Rome chimed in, "The fate of the Soviet is now irrevocably signed. German and allied forces are on the eve of securing final triumph on the Eastern front."

Within a few hours, German "military spokesmen" were talking about Astrakhan, 450 miles east of Rostov. Fred Kaltenbach, the former Iowa farm boy who broadcasts from Berlin, said the capture of Rostov proved "the Germans can capture any objective they set out to capture..."

But the main theme of the invincibility of

the German Army was the obligatto criticism of the British and the Russians for "not admitting the truth about the capture of Rostov".

On November 25th, the Germans stopped criticizing the British and the Soviets for their failure to admit the fall of Rostov.

On November 26th, neither Berlin nor Rome had much to say about the subject -- Rome less than Berlin.

On November 27th, the Russians were then in full command of the city. A German broadcaster mentioned street fighting, but a moment later said, "The Soviets are chased beyond the Don, and Rostov is now in German hands."

On November 28th, the "capture (by the Germans) of Rostov" was mentioned in passing.

On November 29th, the German radio began to explain that the Germans had stepped outside the city limits to take long-distance revenge on the civilian population.

The next morning the Axis radios repeated the story of the voluntary ruralization, but by mid-afternoon foreign correspondents were told that the Soviet Forces had launched a counter-attack at Rostov, "with numerically superior forces".

Two days later, after all the early German excuses had been completely discredited by their own admissions, the German radio announced: "Another proof of the reliability of German reports -- our accounts of the withdrawal from Rostov is exact."

In the early "victory commentaries", the Axis broadcasters told of the joy with which the population of Rostov received their German "liberators". Subsequently, the Germans detailed the fierce retribution they were taking on the so joyous Rostovites, and described the ruin of the city as "more complete than Coventry".

The BBC Monitoring Service furnished us with these examples of the "German Apologia for Rostov"

on December 3, "which advanced the theory that the British arranged the whole Bolshevist offensive":

From Berlin commentary on communique:

"It is understandable that the British have pressured the Soviets to use exceptionally strong forces for the offensive on the Don, regardless of losses.... This is the explanation of the Soviet pressure in the Rostov region, which has been going on for days, and of the repeated mass attacks which collapse with heavy losses...."

From Radio-Paris, the Allied (Axis) command kept to its tactics of avoiding useless loss of life, and not considering prestige, maneuvered its troops so that they should not be exposed to the enormous numerical superiority of the Soviets in this (Rostov) section. It is, perhaps, not premature to say today that Von Kleist is repeating in different form the maneuver so successful at

Gomel, which consisted of avoiding battle and withdrawing in an arc which would allow the forming of fresh pincers.

From Berlin to Africa: "It has become more evident now (December 3) than ever it was before that the German operations at Rostov were a deliberate move of the High Command. Timoshenko and the British News Services make it appear that the Soviets are right on the heels of the Germans. Who on earth could believe such a story?"

Today, the German short-wave quoted a "German military expert" with a new explanation for "the evacuation of Rostov". He said it was a part of a plan "of elastic defense". The German short-wave system then put out a long explanation of the new tactic of elastic defense.

Notes on Part III

The news was so uncompromisingly good that our only chore was the happy one of

writing it in news broadcasts and translating
it into European and Asiatic languages.

PART IV

Japan

In the propaganda war, neither Rome nor Berlin came to the aid of their tripartite partner, which currently is under the most devastating attack in her history.

Day after day, London Monitoring Reports begin with such sentences as: "The Far East was practically unmentioned by the German and Italian home stations" and "The Axis' radio comment on the situation in the Far East was meager and flat, merely quoting American and Japanese newspapers as saying that relations are almost hopeless".

On short-wave, we have not heard a single pro-Japanese propaganda lecture from Rome or Berlin this week, and most news broadcasts ended without so much as a single item from Tokio. Amsterdam, broadcasting on the Asiatic beam, occasionally quoted Domei dispatches.

Last Saturday, Rome said Japan was moving men and material to "strategic Indo-China points", and explained at greater length that the move was justified by the "landing of Anzac Forces in Malaya".

The President's return from Warm Springs and his direct question to Japan were ignored by Japan's partners.

On Wednesday, Berlin said: "A change in the British attitude toward Thailand has now become apparent, as England begins to take measures against that country similar to those which preceded the invasions of Iran and Iraq."

On Thursday, Rome for Portugal, said that Japan's policy toward the United States "could not be understood" except for the fact that "Tokio is adopting delaying tactics so as to gain more time to prepare."

In the face of so little help, Tokio went it alone.

On Sunday, Tokio short-wave issued an edited version of Premier Tojo's speech, and quoted the Thai Premier as saying that Japanese Troops in Indo-China were no threat to Thailand.

On Monday, Tokio radio said that "foreign correspondents" expressed surprise at the reaction in the United States to Tojo's speech, and found the return of the President from Warm Springs inexplicable. It quoted "dispatches" datelined from several Far Eastern points about British attempts to "strengthen the anti-Japanese anti-encirclement line". The Tokio radio made an all-out bid for support from India, including the broadcasting of the statement that "at a meeting held here, the Indian regiments in Japan denounced the United States' interference in the problems of Asia...."

An extensive report on medium-wave broadcasts from Tokio was submitted to Colonel Donovan by this office on Wednesday. Then, as now, the Tokio radio was using the same threatening tone

toward Thailand as it adopted before the
invasion of Indo-China.

The Bangkok wireless warned Siamese that
the danger to their sovereignty was acute.

Notes on Part IV

Through friendly intervention, a press
interview was given by Sir Girja Shankar
Bajpai, India's representative in the United
States. This, broadcast from KGEI in San
Francisco and rebroadcast in several languages
from Singapore, was intended to counter the
anti-American propaganda from Tokio.

Sufficient news of a positive nature
originated in Washington to permit short-
wave editors and news writers here to keep
the pressure on Japan throughout the week.

The truculence of Premier Tojo faded under
the impact of the President's return from Warm
Springs and subsequent unequivocal statements
from the State Department.

PART V

Shorter Takes

Finland. The propagandists of Rome and Berlin were afforded plenty of time this week to wield their favorite bludgeon -- Finland. They had so little to do about Japan, Libya or the Soviet Front.

The Finnish radio at Lahti suppressed all news of the British ultimatum, but played up the Soviet evacuation of Hangoe almost as vigorously as did Berlin. When Lahti criticized the United States, it credited the criticisms to "Berlin political circles".

Lahti quoted Marshall Mannerheim as saying that the end of the war was not yet in sight, but Berlin changed this to make him say that the end was in sight.

Rome and Berlin put out numerous talks about their little ally and its cruel treatment by the democracies, while Berlin featured anti-Democratic quotations from Finnish sources.

Notes on Finland

If the British declare war on Finland, there will be a most unfavorable reaction unless immediate measures are taken to make up for our lack of a consistent program of informative preparation in the past.

This office has made what use it could during the week of the Secretary of State's warning of last Friday, but it has been difficult for stale comments to meet the competition of the fresh news elsewhere.

This section has strongly recommended that whatever action and whatever statements may follow a British declaration, they be so timed as to maintain predominant attention to our side of the story during the first three or four days after the event.

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Pétain-Coering. Rome, Berlin and Vichy encouraged mystery about the meeting of the

Marshals. All Axis sources agreed that what they said was a secret. Everybody, the propagandists hinted, was talking about it. But what everybody was saying somehow remained unreported. So once again the Germans tightened the thumbscrews of anxiety on their Western neighbors.

Notes on Petain-Coering

Pursuant to our directive, we have done nothing to encourage Frenchmen to resist the Axis since the State Department spoke out against the dismissal of General Weygand.

We have suggested that the President speak to the French people -- in French.