

TRUTH

A weapon the Reds can't match



An American business leader reports
on Radio Free Europe's crusade
to pierce the Iron Curtain with
Western ideas and news.

by **Charles Ritz**

Chairman of the Board, International Milling Co.



Charles Ritz (left) records impressions
for RFE at point along the Iron Curtain.

WIN A TRIP TO EUROPE

Now you can send your own Truth Broadcast behind the Iron Curtain over Radio Free Europe—and you may win a free trip to Europe to broadcast it yourself! Or you may be awarded a short-wave radio.

Just complete the following sentence in 25 words or less:

"As an American, I support Radio Free Europe because . . ."

Send your Truth Broadcast, with your name and address, to:

Crusade for Freedom, Box 10-F, Mt. Vernon 10, N. Y.

Double your award if you send a dollar with your entry! Every cent collected supports Radio Free Europe. Just follow these simple rules:

1. Complete the message in your own words, being as clear, appropriate, sincere, and original as possible.
2. Enter as often as you wish, but mail each entry individually. You must be a U.S. citizen to enter.
3. Mail your messages so they are received no later than April 10, 1959.

I HAVE JUST RETURNED from the German-Czech border where I saw what the Iron Curtain really is.

It is an electrified wire fence capable of killing farm animals or human beings on contact. It surrounds the borders of the satellite countries and makes the Iron Curtain a material as well as a theoretical barrier.

It's quite obvious as you stand there that the purpose of the Iron Curtain is to keep the Czechs in—not to keep Germans or anyone else out. But the Iron Curtain is more than a physical barrier. It is a frontier against Western news and ideas. It was logical, therefore, that my next stop was Munich, headquarters for Radio Free Europe.

Why Radio Free Europe? Because it alone penetrates the Iron Curtain I had seen. It is a highly organized effort to broadcast truth and at the same time counteract Communist propaganda in five captive satellite countries: Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Complete control of press, radio, and other means of mass communications is essential in making a totalitarian state totally effective. If the uninformed masses hear nothing but unanswered Communist propaganda, they ultimately accept it as fact.

The goal of RFE is to counter Red brainwashing with truth, the most important

weapon in the cold war. Russia can keep newspapers, magazines, and printed news out of the satellite countries, but it cannot effectively shut out the voice of RFE.

Radio Free Europe, we should remember, is supported by the American people through their contributions to the Crusade for Freedom. This is the only source of income for RFE—voluntary contributions from our business firms and ourselves.

One of the questions I wanted answered while inspecting RFE was how do we know RFE is getting through and how great is its impact behind the Iron Curtain?

We know of RFE's effectiveness from: 1) the testimony of refugees; 2) the hundreds of letters which have by-passed censors to reach RFE; 3) the number of Communist attacks in press and radio and their reference to specific RFE programs; and 4) from the extent of Communist jamming tactics.

Monitoring engineers in the West have pinpointed the locations of over 1,200 Communist radio stations broadcasting nothing but noise on RFE's frequencies. The cost of this is prodigious but largely futile. David Sarnoff, head of Radio Corporation of America, and Frank Stanton, head of Columbia Broadcasting System, who visited RFE in Munich shortly before I did, pronounced its technical facilities second to none in the

world. RFE can be heard on as many as 22 different places on the radio dial in each country, so listeners can pick the best one.

Constant Communist attacks in the press and radio also prove RFE is hitting home. In the last four and a half years, in more than 7,000 Communist attacks on Western radio, 75 percent have been directed specifically against Radio Free Europe. The Communists would hardly give such notice to the operation if it were not so effective.

One of the features of Radio Free Europe that most impressed me was its information-gathering facilities. RFE monitors 50 Communist radio stations night and day and records pertinent programs for analysis by editorial and political staffs. RFE also scans some 600 Communist publications for the same purpose. This enables RFE to counter Communist propaganda with truth.

And so I learned how the battle of the airwaves continues. When will it end? How long must the Crusade for Freedom and its millions of American contributors support Radio Free Europe?

The answer is: as long as the Iron Curtain remains to make a virtual concentration camp out of once-free countries, as long as freedom is denied these captive people.

The work must continue and it must have the support of all America.