

# Voice of America Receives First Fan Letter from Communist China

By DONALD H. MAY  
**United Press International**  
 Washington—UPI—The Voice of America, the U. S. Government's overseas propaganda broadcasting agency, has received its first direct "fan" letter from inside Red China.

It was written on poor quality, semi-transparent paper, in a legible hand, in ink and in English. It was postmarked Peiping and arrived by regular mail in Washington in 17 days. It said:

Sirs:  
 I have been listening to your English language broadcasts for the past five months. I used to listen to the 9 p. m. news and commentary and the 10 p. m. special English program. The latter suits me better because it is slower in speed.

ter from Red China.  
 There is no way of knowing whether it was written by a brave or a very foolish man; by someone trying to get another person in trouble; by a Communist functionary perhaps to test the Chinese mail censors; or by a Chinese government radio monitor who wished the U. S. announcers would slow down, and who had a sense of humor.

But the information battle is far too complex to be measured in such statistics. USIA's own operations are far more intricate than the American public generally knows.

Where there has been fighting within a country, USIA has gotten heavily into the psychological warfare business, such as preparing and dropping leaflets behind enemy lines.

USIA is, for example, often involved in covert operations. In a number of new countries it puts out publications in the local language which bear no attribution to the United States and appear to be the work either of the local government or local publishing houses.

For the first time in 2½ years, the monthly traffic count on most major highways in Oregon has taken a drop, according to the Oregon state highway department.

Cuba. It once managed to show USIA films on the floor of the Brazilian senate.

Some years ago former President Eisenhower gave USIA an official definition of its "mission" which boiled down to "explaining and interpreting to foreign peoples the objectives and policies of the U. S. government."

This concept has now become totally old-fashioned. Last Jan. 25 President Kennedy redefined USIA's job in a memorandum to Murrow which until now has been marked "confidential."

It consists, Mr. Kennedy wrote, of "influencing public attitudes in other nations" and advising the administration on the foreign opinion implications of its policies.



**NEW POLICEMAN**—Mrs. Mary Ellen Kendall, 26, of route 3, box 233, assumed her new duties recently as a policeman with the Medford police department. She was assigned to the 4 p. m. to midnight shift.

but will eventually vary her work schedule to relieve other personnel for vacations and days off. She was a stenographer for a Medford firm before accepting the position with the department.

## Traffic Volume on Area Highways Has Decreased in Year

For the first time in 2½ years, the monthly traffic count on most major highways in Oregon has taken a drop, according to the Oregon state highway department.

A decrease of 3.6 per cent was noted on all rural highways with a 1.7 drop in urban traffic over the 1962 count. Interstate highway systems were included in the figures.

It was signed with a Chinese name, spelled out in the western alphabet, and included a return address.

In recent years, U. S. officials have received occasional reports, including letters from refugees, which indicate some listening audience in Red China but never a direct let-

ter from Red China. The United States ranks third, after Russia and Red China, in hours of international broadcasting. USIA's budget this year is \$124 million. Murrow wants \$157.9 million in fiscal 1964. The agency has no very good estimate of Russia's budget but believes it may be 10 times that or more.

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## Man Pleads Guilty To Assault Charge

Ned Orvie Tucker, 318 East 12th st., was fined \$35 after he plead guilty to charges of assault and battery in Medford municipal court Friday.

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