

*file 1210C*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : NEA/P - Mr. Jones

DATE: September 14, 1951

FROM : NEA - Mr. Berry *MB*

VOA BROADCASTS START  
NEAR EASTERN, SOUTH ASIAN  
AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS  
NEA/P

*640*

SUBJECT: VOA Broadcasts in Kurdish.

SEP 17 1951

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*KR  
511.804*

I refer to the long-pending question of VOA broadcasts in Kurdish. As you will recall, we recently solicited the views of various interested posts on this issue and it was the general reaction that the programs might be advantageous if carefully planned. The strong adverse reaction from Ankara (telegram No. 212 of September 4) is, however, regarded as an over-riding consideration and confirms the position previously taken by GTI that the Turkish Government would object firmly to U. S. public sponsorship of a Kurdish program.

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It was not anticipated, of course, that a direct approach would be made to the foreign governments in connection with the question. Since the Embassy at Ankara did, nevertheless, take the matter up with the Turkish Foreign Office and since the latter has left no doubt as to its opposition to such a program, its initiation at any time in the near future would be detrimental to our relations with Turkey. The seriousness with which the Turkish Government views this question has been emphasized by the call on me recently of the Counselor of the Turkish Embassy who, upon instructions from his Government, elaborated on and emphasized the Foreign Office views set forth in the reference telegram.

In view of the above, it is suggested that you may wish to inform IBD that NEA cannot give its approval to the inauguration of Kurdish broadcasts, although further consideration might be given to methods of appropriately utilizing Iraqi and Iranian broadcasting services to reach the Kurds in those countries.

FW 511.80/5-1051

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JUN 22 1956

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BY *Ray* NARA Date 7/1/92

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