

AIR POUCH

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511.885/9-253

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM USIS Tehran

TOUST 1

DESP. NO.

TO WASHINGTON

September 2, 1953

REF:

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SUBJECT: No Pix: Recent Action by Censorship Commission in Connection with THE KOREA STORY and LET US LIVE

USIS Tehran reports that with the recent change in government the attitude of the motion picture Censorship Commission toward anti communist film material has apparently changed so that it may be possible for USIS in the future to obtain official permission to show some anti communist films. Heretofore as reported in previous communications, no exhibition permits were granted for films that contained any reference to communism, Soviet Russia, or even pictures of the Soviet leaders.

Four days ago the subject films were submitted to the Censorship Commission. Verbal approval to THE KOREA STORY was given. It should be emphasized that a written permit is not in hand as this despatch is written; however, USIS has reason to believe that the permit will be issued.

In the case of LET US LIVE, the Censorship Commission informed USIS verbally that they would not give a permit now as in all probability the Soviet Embassy would submit a similar film presenting their viewpoint. They wished to be in a position to refuse such a film. However, the Commission did ask that we submit this film at a later date when a new policy may permit its showing.

If the present attitude of the Censorship Commission continues and permits are forthcoming on anti communist films, USIS will wish to give highest priority to the recording in Persian of films of this type. USIS will select the films carefully. It will be necessary at the outset to adhere to those films which are factual presentations of communist aggression. Later, it may be possible to use films of an even stronger propaganda line. USIS advises the Agency to avoid overoptimism at this time as the new Iranian government is presently feeling its way cautiously. USIS will keep the Agency advised of future developments. A separate communication is being forwarded requesting Persian language prints of THE KOREA STORY.

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JL Hamilton
REPORTER

C. Edward Wells
Public Affairs Officer

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