

## Statement on International Broadcasting Programs *June 15, 1993*

Today I am pleased to take an important step in the promotion of democracy by putting in place my proposal for strengthening one of the most effective foreign policy tools we have, our international broadcasting programs, for the spread of our values, our ideas, and our democratic way of life can help strengthen our security and support others around the world in their struggle for freedom.

I am pleased to be joined in this effort by the Director of the U.S. Information Agency, Dr. Joseph Duffey, and the Chair of the Board of International Broadcasting, Congressman Dan Mica. These programs have been and will be an essential part of our efforts to promote democracy and advance America's interests abroad.

Our plan proposes a proud rebirth of America's broadcasting programs to reflect this post-cold-war era. Our proposal preserves Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, which played such an important role in bringing freedom to Central and Eastern Europe and to the states of the former Soviet Union. It retains our other important broadcasting services, such as Voice of America, Radio Marti, and TV Marti, which have played such an important role in bringing truth and hope abroad. And our plan reorganizes our foreign broadcasting services to make them stronger, more efficient, and more capable of meeting this era's new challenges of fostering democracy and civic reconstruction.

Our victory in the cold war was due not only to the strength of our forces but also to the power of our ideas. While we acted to contain Soviet expansionism, we also sought to inspire freedom's spirit where repression reigned. Voice of America long played an important role in that effort. And to advance that same cause, 40 years ago we began a radio service, Radio Liberty, which aimed to join freedom's advocates behind the Iron Curtain with freedom-loving Americans. The founders of this and the other American radio services understood that truth is one of our most potent weapons in the fight against communism and totalitarianism.

The heroes of the cold war's end, such as Polish President Lech Walesa and Czech President Vaclav Havel, have often noted the importance they attach to Radio Free Europe and

Radio Liberty to their own historic work on behalf of liberty and democracy. Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, together with our other broadcasting services, have persistently challenged the ability of repressive leaders to deny history, disfigure truth, and manipulate minds. From Havana to Ho Chi Minh City, from Pretoria to Prague, our foreign broadcast services helped prove a lesson that Americans must never forget: An informed and enlightened populace is the mightiest adversary tyranny can ever face.

Today, the challenges have changed for the states that were once held captive behind the Iron Curtain. Freedom's work is not completed. Most of these states are undergoing a difficult process of consolidating democracy's gains and building prosperity's foundations. The resulting economic and political tensions in many of these nations have bred demagogues and warlords who threaten to reverse democracy's recent progress. These states and many others still need a source of news that is reliably free from the manipulation of their own governments. No nation has more credibility to provide such news than the United States. That is why our radio and other international broadcasting services will continue to be vital as we seek to help strengthen new democracies and bolster the development of democratic institutions where they do not yet exist.

The plan we are announcing today will make those services stronger and better suited to this era:

We will continue the operation of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. Many of our broadcasting services, including both of these radios and Voice of America, will undergo some changes in structure and budget.

We will create a new and independent Board of Governors that will oversee not only Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty but the Voice of America and other foreign broadcasting services as well. Located within the United States Information Agency, it will replace and perform similar tasks to the Board of International Broadcasting. The new board, which the President shall appoint with the advice and consent of the Senate, will ensure independence, coher-

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ence, quality, and journalistic integrity in our surrogate and other broadcast services.

This new board will play an important role in determining the best mix of broadcasting functions: telling America's story to the rest of the world, reporting objective international news, providing accurate in-country news where a free press is not yet developed, and from time to time helping to transmit our Government's official views abroad.

This new board will also take a leadership role in helping to create a new Asian Democracy Radio to provide accurate local and international information for the people of Asia whose governments still suppress the truth.

In addition, we will continue the good work of our important broadcasting services aimed at speeding the arrival of freedom in Cuba, Radio Marti and TV Marti. The current structure of these entities and their boards will remain.

We will encourage the establishment of independent news-gathering and broadcast operations in the countries of Eastern Europe and the new independent states themselves, where they can be rewoven into the fabric of democratic life.

By bringing our broadcasting resources together under one roof, we can achieve substan-

tial savings while at the same time providing for greater flexibility to target and shape our broadcasts as may be warranted by changing international circumstances and audience interests. We can also take better advantage of the remarkable technological developments in worldwide broadcasting that are imminent.

The plan we are announcing today was developed through the hard work and cooperation of many individuals, but I particularly want to acknowledge the leadership of Congressman Dan Mica and Dr. Duffey. I also want to acknowledge the high degree of professionalism and dedication among those individuals who have done so much to create the excellence of the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, and Radio Liberty and our other broadcasting services. They spent years of their lives, and often risked their own lives, to bring accurate news and the message of democracy to people who have been denied both, and we will continue to rely on their excellent service.

I have said that my foreign policy is premised on promoting democracy, improving our security, and revitalizing our economy. The plan we are announcing today assists us in doing all three.

## Nomination for an Under Secretary of Commerce

*June 15, 1993*

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Jeff Garten to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

"As we seek to expand free and fair trade with all of our partners around the world, I am very pleased to be naming Jeff Garten to this important post," said the President. "His combination of hands-on business experience,

sterling academic credentials, and previous Government service in three administrations amply equips him to tackle the challenges that lie ahead."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

## Nomination for Ambassador to Italy

*June 15, 1993*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Reginald Bartholomew, a senior Foreign Service officer with the rank of Career Minister, to the post of Ambassador to Italy.

"Reg Bartholomew has served our country ably in several ambassadorial positions and many