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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	David Burke to POTUS; re: Chinese Jamming of RFA & VOA Broadcasting to China & Tibet (2 pages)	10/23/1997	P5 4297
001b. letter	David Burke to POTUS; re: Chinese Jamming og RFA & VOA Broadcasting to China & Tibet (2 pages)	10/23/1997	P5 : Dup

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
NSC Records Management (PRS-Presidential Records ["VOA"])
OA/Box Number: 3246

FOLDER TITLE:

9708182

Jimmie Purvis
2006-0165-F
jp195

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning the wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

October 23, 1997

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House

Dear Mr. President:



On behalf of the members of the presidentially-appointed bipartisan Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), I am writing to express grave concern regarding China's ongoing jamming of Radio Free Asia (RFA) and Voice of America (VOA) broadcasts to both China and Tibet. It is our hope that you will raise this issue with President Jiang Zemin during his upcoming visit to Washington next week.

RFA began broadcasting to China on September 29, 1996 seven years after the Tiananmen demonstrations, five years after the introduction of the first RFA legislation in Congress and just six months after its incorporation under the oversight of the BBG. The Tibetan service was inaugurated on December 1, 1996 while other broadcast services soon were on air to Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and North Korea. VOA has been broadcasting to China in local languages and English since its founding in 1942, and today reaches the PRC in Mandarin, Cantonese and Tibetan. Recently, access to VOA's Mandarin Internet text service has been greatly restricted in Beijing in a new form of interference with the free flow of information to readers, as well as listeners, in the Chinese capital.

With the passage of the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994 signed by you on April 30th of that year, both the Administration and Congress determined that it was necessary to have "a new broadcasting service to the people of the People's Republic of China and other countries of Asia which lack adequate sources of free information..." The important mandate of RFA was built on your statement in 1993 when you proposed to Congress the establishment of a surrogate radio to Asia to "provide accurate local and international information for the people of Asia whose governments still suppress the truth." By being factual and objective, RFA's news and information deliver the message of freedom and democracy to the people of China and Tibet.

Your Administration has opposed the jamming of international radio broadcasts as an infringement on the freedom of the press and the free flow of information. It is the policy of the United States to promote the right of freedom of opinion and expression, including the freedom "to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers," in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In support of this principle, you have cited the work of RFA and VOA, and in a letter to the Congress on June 18, 1997, you stated that "it is critical that we encourage initiatives to promote the free exchange of ideas and information."

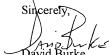
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Mr. President, the Board recognizes that the Administration will be discussing an array of issues in meetings with President Jiang Zemin and other members of his delegation. We also understand that the U.S.-China relationship encompasses a wide range of complex and often competing interests. It is, nonetheless, the strongly held view of the bipartisan BBG that the issue of China's jamming of RFA and VOA is sufficiently important to be an agenda item in your meetings with President Jiang and other Chinese officials.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors is grateful for your strong support of increased funding for RFA and VOA broadcasts to China. We remain convinced that support for U.S. international broadcasting without interference advances U.S. foreign policy interests and also advances freedom, democracy and human rights throughout the world.

Sincerely,


David Burke
Chairman



Members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors:

David Burke, Chairman
Joseph Duffey
Cheryl Halpern
Ted Kaufman
Tom Korologos

Bette Bao Lord
Alberto Mora
Marc Nathanson
Carl Spielvogel

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
0018 Letter	David Burke to POTUS; re: Chinese Jamming of RFA & VOA Broadcasts to China & Tibet (2 pages)	06/09/1998	P5 4298

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
NSC Records Management (PRS-Presidential Records ["VOA"])
OA/Box Number: 3265

FOLDER TITLE:

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Jimmie Purvis
2006-0165-F
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BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

June 9, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House



Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the members of the presidentially-appointed bipartisan Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), I am writing to express grave concern regarding China's continued jamming of Radio Free Asia (RFA) and Voice of America (VOA) broadcasts to both China and Tibet. It is our hope that your upcoming trip to China will present an historic opportunity to raise this important issue with the Chinese government.

Radio Free Asia and the Voice of America are built on widely recognized principles of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The article states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." This right is the cornerstone of the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994 enacted by a bipartisan Congress and signed by you on April 30th of that year. A fully informed citizenry is an essential prerequisite for a truly democratic government. Expansion of democracy abroad is key to a more peaceful and prosperous world.

We are grateful that your Administration consistently has recognized the vital importance of the work of RFA and the VOA. In a letter to the U.S. Congress dated June 18, 1997, you wrote that "it is critical that we encourage initiatives to promote the free exchange of ideas and information, and I welcome your call for increased funding to expand U.S.-supported international broadcasting into China." You added that your Administration "has strongly supported broadcasts to China by both Radio Free Asia and the Voice of America."

The VOA has been broadcasting to China in local languages and English since its founding in 1942. The VOA now broadcasts ten hours daily in Chinese Mandarin, one hour in Cantonese, and two hours in Tibetan, and offers a wide-ranging mix of public affairs and call-in programming. China's jamming of VOA's shortwave broadcasts, and its blocking of the Internet text service, are a serious impediment to the ability of the Chinese people to understand America and their own region. Until 1997, when the Chinese government clamped down on access to VOA's web page, 50% of VOA's weekly 200,000 worldwide "hits" were from China. Today, the number of hits from China has dwindled to nearly zero.

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330 Independence Avenue, S.W. Room 3360 Cohen Bldg Washington, DC 20547 (202) 401-3736 Fax (202) 401-6605

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RFA began broadcasting to China in Mandarin on September 29, 1996, and its Tibetan service was inaugurated on December 1, 1996. These broadcasts also have been subjected to extensive jamming. On May 18, 1998, RFA commenced broadcasting to China in Cantonese, and jamming of these broadcasts began on May 30. Your Administration has opposed the jamming of international radio broadcasts as an infringement of the principles articulated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994.

The Board realizes that the U.S.-China relationship encompasses a wide range of complex and often competing interests. Nonetheless, it is the strongly held view of the bipartisan BBG that the issue of China's jamming of RFA and VOA is sufficiently important to be an agenda item in your meetings with Chinese officials. Your support of our activities has underscored that U.S. international broadcasting without interference advances U.S. foreign policy interests as well as freedom, democracy, and human rights throughout the world.

Sincerely,



David Burke
Chairman

Members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors

David Burke, Chairman
Joseph Duffey
Cheryl Halpern
Ted Kaufman
Tom Korologos

Bette Bao Lord
Alberto Mora
Marc Nathanson
Carl Spielvogel



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