



# **CAMPAIGN for INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING**

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Formerly-National Commercial Radio Movement

## **JAMMING OF RADIO NORDSEE BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT**

In our previous news-sheet, we informed you of action which we took in the House of Commons on Wednesday 15th April 1970, the very same day the R.N.I. was jammed. As a result of our lobbying of M.P.'s, questions were asked in the House on 22nd April by Mr. Eldon Griffiths. Needless to say, the reply from Mr. Stonehouse did not answer any of the questions adequately. We are giving you below the full details of the questions which were put, as well as the Labour Government's answer so you can judge for yourself !

### **POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

#### **Radio Broadcasts (Jamming)**

Mr. Eldon Griffiths asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications (1) by what authority he ordered the jamming of radio broadcasts from a radio station operated by non-British persons from a vessel outside British territorial waters ;

(2) how many Post Office engineers and other personnel were required to carry out his instruction to jam the broadcasts of an offshore station outwith British territorial waters ;

(3) if he will publish the messages from foreign Governments and broadcasting agencies requesting him to jam the broadcasts from Radio North Sea ;

(4) if he is aware that the jamming signal transmitted by Post Office engineers on either side of wavelength 190 caused interference in the reception of legitimate broadcasts by stations belonging to members of the European Broadcasting Convention ; by what authority he caused these spurious emissions in the medium and short-wave bands ; and if he will cease interfering with the legitimate radio listening of licence holders.

Mr. Stonehouse : The pirate has been seriously interfering first with normal marine communications and then with listeners to legitimate broadcasts in Norway and Italy. This is contrary to our own laws and the International Telecommunication Convention, which bans broadcasting from ships and harmful interference to authorised radio services. We took action in concert with the Governments of Norway and Italy to support the Convention and uphold the rule of law. Our own transmissions did not interfere with any authorised station. We used the wavelength assigned to the other countries on their behalf and caused the intruder to move off. I do not propose to disclose details which could assist the pirate.

Mr. Paul Bryan, Shadow Minister for Posts and Telecommunications, told us he found the answers given "highly unsatisfactory" and he intends to take the matter further. In a personal note to us Mr Heath also expressed his strong disapproval of the Governments' handling of this matter. For our part we shall continue to press all Parties to see that further questions are asked and more action is taken !

### **B.B.C. LOCAL RADIO**

Together with this news-letter, you will receive a sheet giving you the FACTS about the Governments' policy on this very important issue. Now we do need YOUR support by putting over these points in letters to your local newspaper and M.P., and any other way you can think of so that as many people as possible are aware of what is happening. If you have any other ideas please do let us know either by letter or by phoning any of the above telephone numbers. Remember, this is YOUR Organisation. YOUR support will help to make us more successful !

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