



CAMPAIGN for INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING

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Formerly-National Commercial Radio Movement

NEWSLETTER JUNE 1970

Dear Friends,

As you know, we usually send out newsletters only once every 3 months and your last one was sent out only 2 or 3 weeks ago, but in the meantime so much has happened that we feel we must keep you fully informed.

JAMMING OF RADIO NORDSEE INTERNATIONAL

As we all know, this started again on Thursday, 21st May and the same evening our Chairman and General Secretary were at Westminster and wrote a personal note of protest to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Edward Heath. At the same time, we also protested by telephone to 10 Downing Street. Apart from this we have constantly been in touch with the national daily newspapers, and on Sunday 24th May we located and visited the jamming station at Chattenden, near Rochester. Although there were only three of us in the car who drove up to the entrance, Police appeared on the scene within seconds of our arrival and blocked the way. On the same day we also carried out reception reports which showed that the jamming was also interfering with the reception of Radio One in a 30-mile belt stretching from Bexley to Faversham. This was quite well reported in the press, especially as on the same day the Ministry claimed that there was NO interference at all to Radio One !

Our protest demonstration at Rochester was planned at very short notice for Sunday, 31st May, and we are sorry that we were not able to contact all of you before that date because of lack of time. Somehow the disc jockeys aboard Mebo 11 found out about this demonstration and decided to give us publicity, for which we are most grateful. The rally itself was a great success and hundreds of people took part. It was covered by the press and BBC TV also ran a filmed report the same evening in their news bulletin. The same evening we handed further protest notes to Downing Street as well as a petition from the 400 people who have houses on the estate backing on to the transmitting station who can receive practically NO PROGRAMMES AT ALL on the medium wave band.

The following day members of our Executive Committee followed Harold Wilson on his tour of various parts of London in his Election Campaign. We were able to bring to his personal notice our feelings concerning the jamming, although in the limited time and circumstances it was difficult to have any proper discussion. We do need your help in similar action between now and the Election. Please find out when Mr. Wilson will be visiting your area and if possible, together with your friends, take your transistor radios along tuned to the jamming. You may even have the chance of getting close enough to ask some questions and a separate sheet is enclosed with some information. Please telephone us if you want any more information regarding the jamming, which the Ministry are unable to justify.

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OTHER CIB ACTION

During the period prior to the General Election, we have decided to arrange local demonstrations up and down the country, especially centering our efforts in Labour marginal constituences. As our members in these areas know, we have already visited Leicester, Nottingham, Birmingham, Oxford and Reading. Several thousand leaflets have been distributed concerning the Government's mis-handling of local radio and we have also had a good deal of support and publicity in the local press. As time is so short, it will not be possible to visit all areas, so if you are interested, you can help us together with some of your friends, to hand out leaflets and contact your local newspapers and MPs. Please let us know if you want more details. We have a limited number of leaflets we can send you for distribution and perhaps some of you are able to get leaflets printed cheaply.

READING FREE RADIO ACTION GROUP.

This very active group have agreed to become affiliated to CIB and we feel sure that our co-operation will be good for both of us, and for the cause.

With this newsletter you will also receive a separate sheet which is an actual copy of the press release which Radio Nordsee International asked CIB to give to the British newspapers. As we are connected to the International Telex System we can of course contact RNI in Zurich at any time.

LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION.

We are having a considerable quantity of these special leaflets printed designed to go under the windscreen wipers of cars with radios. We would like these distributed as quickly as possible. If you are interested in helping, please telephone or write so that we can send you some of these for distribution in your area. Once again, if you can get leaflets printed cheaply, this will also be a great help.

PROTEST RALLY SUNDAY 14th JUNE, 3.00 P.M.

SPEAKERS CORNER, MARBLE ARCH, LONDON.

We have decided to hold this Rally protesting against the jamming of Radio Nordsee International and we shall be marching on Downing Street with further letters of protest. If the jamming has stopped before that date the Rally will still take place. We hope that as many of you as possible will attend and please telephone us if you want any more details. We have limited resources for advertising so please spread the word, because it is important that this Rally is a success.

Before finishing, we would like to thank all those members who have helped us in the past weeks, as well as many who came a considerable distance to be at the Rally last Sunday at Rochester. We are always very pleased to hear from members who are willing to help or have ideas for furthering the cause. Please do not be shy and telephone us or write in, but when writing please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope and quote your membership number. Thank you.

The Committee.