

March, 1971.

Well since preparing the newsletter, we have had a strike by Post Office Workers, which prevented us sending the newsletter to the printers. However, let me bring you up to date.

RADIO NORDSEE INTERNATIONAL: As you probably already know, R.N.I. re-commenced official transmissions on 220m., on the medium wave band, 49m., 6205 khz, on the short wave band, and Channel 44, 100 mhz on F.M./V.H.F., these transmissions which started on Sunday 21st February 1971, had the following programme schedule:

6 - 9 Tony Allen; 9 - 12 Martin Kayne; 12 - 3 David Rogers; 3 - 6 Crispian St. John; 6 - 9 Alan West; 9 - 12 Stevi Merike; 12 - 2 Crispian St. John.

However, Dutch language programmes have now started between 9 - 4. Therefore, Martin Kayne is now heard between 4 - 6 and David Rogers "sits in" on other people's shows, when they are on shore leave.

We have received a report that R.N.I. (Mebo Ltd.) are suing Radio Veronica for alleged unlawful occupation of the Mebo 2 ship, damage to its installations, and also claiming compensation for libel. Edwin Bollier, director of Mebo Ltd., claims that when the station closed on September 24th, it was leased to Radio Veronica. The lease was due to end on December 1st, according to Mr. Bollier, and he claims that Radio Veronica refused to leave, or accept payment of the Mebo debt. In the end Mr. Bollier had to keep "occupiers" off the ship, by threatening them with the ship's pistol. Mr. Bollier is also claiming damages for the harm which he claims took mechanics almost a month to put in order, inflicted to equipment by Radio Veronica. There is also a libel suit for newspaper reports alleged to have emanated from Radio Veronica that they were bringing a case against Mebo Ltd. for piracy. Mr. Bollier states that no case has been presented by them. The claim is for 50,000 guilders per day rent from Radio Veronica, for the time they occupied the Mebo 2, not covered for by the contract, and also compensation of some 2 million Swiss Francs. Mr. Bollier said that he had some time ago applied to the Principality of Liechtenstein for a commercial broadcasting licence. With the new Swiss-Liechtenstein postal agreement due, such a project has become theoretically possible in years to come.

We will, of course, keep you informed of any further developments.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The Committee has agreed that the date for the A.G.M. will be 25th April beginning at 2.30 p.m. It will be held at 27 London Road, Bromley, Kent (2nd Floor). We would be grateful if you could let us know if you intend to come. Would you please complete the form on this newsletter, letting us know if you are coming or not. Please return it to our headquarters by no later than Saturday 17th April.

MEETING: The 76 Group, an organisation set up primarily on B.B.C. production staff, had a meeting recently at the Royal Festival Hall in which local radio was discussed. The meeting was divided into two sessions; morning and afternoon. In the morning the discussion was devoted to B.B.C. local radio, with two B.B.C. Local Radio Station managers talking, and playing excerpts from their stations.

The afternoon had Hughie Green with his partner Tony Cadman and Technical Adviser, Derek Faraday. Also on the platform was our Chairman, David Prewett. Many questions

To: Campaign for Independent Broadcasting (A.G.M.)
13 Ashwood House, London N.W.4.

I shall / shall not * be able to attend the Annual General Meeting on
Sunday 25th April, 1971 at 2.30 p.m.

Signed

Membership No.

* Delete not applicable.

came from all over the floor, after the speakers had all made a speech. However, when David asked Hughie how he would ensure clear reception further than 3 or 4 miles away from his 'local' stations at night time using the medium wave band. Hughie referred the question to Mr. Faraday. After talking all around the question Hughie interjected loudly for him to answer the question, but decided then to answer it himself. His reply was that they would increase the power so it gave a clearly audible signal over the whole reception area. Hughie obviously does not realise what the interference would be like to other stations legally operating on that frequency, and also not aware of International Regulations with regard to power, and interference. The meeting was interesting in as much as it proved there are still many "holes" in Hughie's plan for round-the-clock medium wave broadcasting.

NATIONAL RADIO: This seems to be the new "in talk" as regards to the contents of the White Paper. The threat of closing the B.B.C. Local stations and B.B.C. Radio One has now been washed aside, now that the B.B.C. has "found" a medium wave frequency for the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. (See N.C.R.M. Sound Broadcasting Study; February 1969 - copies still available price 10p). If you have any thoughts that this national station would be used to relay a national pop station - forget them! It would be probably used for a news and information gathering source, for relay to the local stations. Perhaps there may be some mixed variety of entertainment programmes in addition, but nothing like even Radio One! We stand firm in our recommendation for a small regional system of broadcasting, with opportunities for as many independent stations as possible. The national station would be a monopoly, this is also something that we wish to avoid in a truly competitive system of independent radio.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: We are very pleased to announce that we have co-opted two more members onto the Executive Committee. They are Ray Forster and Frank Cope. We hope to be bringing on one or two others before the A.G.M., and we expect they will all be at the A.G.M., along with the rest of the Committee for you to meet.

Well that about rounds off all the news for the time being. We still await the news about a publication date for the White paper.

Until the next time, once again - goodbye.