



Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

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Mr A M Bunzl
General Secretary
Campaign for Independent Broadcasting
3 Oldfield Road
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Kent

Your reference

Our reference

Date 18 June 1970

Dear Mr Bunzl

I have been asked to answer your letter of 5 June.

The letters received from your organisation show such a misunderstanding of the situation that I do not think it possible to resolve matters by trying to answer a few questions. Instead may I make a new start and put some facts on paper:-

1. The assertion that 'a very large proportion of all stations now broadcasting on the medium wave band in Europe are doing so without the authorisation of the Copenhagen Agreement of 1948' is wrong. This assertion appears to be based on a simple comparison of the stations for which frequency assignments were planned at Copenhagen and those now operating in Europe 22 years later. What has been overlooked is that the Copenhagen Conference produced Final Acts containing provisions for countries not represented at the Conference to accede to its decisions and for the establishment by international agreement, of further broadcasting stations - additional to those planned by the Conference - in accordance with rules adopted by the Conference.
2. Taking it as a fact that very few MF broadcasting stations in Europe are operating in accordance other than with the Final Acts of the Copenhagen Conference of 1948, RNSI or Radio Caroline International is one such station. You have of course accepted that the station is forbidden under No 422 of the Radio Regulations annexed to the International Telecommunication Convention, Montreux, 1965.

On the matter of interference: on each of the three frequencies used by RNSI (without any licence or agreement from authorised users) the station has caused interference with the reception of authorised radio services in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe. Thus this station offends on at least three accounts, and the need for action to close it down is obvious.

3. Your suggestion that under No 422 a wide range of counter measures could be justified has been noted. However, for the time being you would probably agree that it is sufficient to prevent the station establishing a viable service. Action taken by our Minister to this end is in accordance with the Convention mentioned above and its prime aim is to discourage the unauthorised use of frequencies with the attendant risks of interference to other services. As for claims that our transmitter has itself caused interference to the reception of authorised radio services I can

now say, as the result of extensive investigations, that by far the larger proportion of these complaints were not genuine - RNSI proved to be the principal source of the interference.

4. A final point about pirate broadcasting generally. We can see no participation for those who support pirate radio. This is an anarchic activity conducted without responsibility or concern for the rights of others to use their properly assigned frequencies and to operate their own authorised services without interference. Whether or not our national broadcasting services are to be operated by the BBC (or by some other organisation) and whether or not these are to be financed out of licence revenue (or by some other means) are matters for discussion outside the context of this Ministry's measures to combat pirate radio. In the end of course it is Parliament that decides on these matters.

Yours sincerely



W F JOHNSON