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§ 6201. Congressional findings and declaration of purposes

The Congress makes the following findings and declarations:

- (1) 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.
- (2) Open communication of information and ideas among the peoples of the world contributes to international peace and stability and the promotion of such communication is in the interests of the United States.
- (3) It is in the interest of the United States to support broadcasting to other nations consistent with the requirements of this chapter.
- (4) The continuation of existing United States international broadcasting, and the creation of 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, would enhance the promotion of information and ideas, while advancing the goals of United States foreign policy.
- (5) The reorganization and consolidation of United States international broadcasting will achieve important economies and strengthen the capability of the United States to use broadcasting to support freedom and democracy in a rapidly changing international environment.

(Pub. L. 103–236, title III, §302, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 432.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in par. (3), was in the original “this title”, meaning title III of Pub. L. 103–236, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 432, as amended, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of title III to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Section 301 of title III of Pub. L. 103–236 provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter, amending sections 1465b, 1465c, and 2873 of this title and section 5315 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and repealing sections 1463, 2871 to 2877, and 2878 to 2883 of this title and provisions set out as a note under section 2871 of this title] may be cited as the ‘United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994’.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 6211 of this title.

§ 6202. Standards and principles

(a) Broadcasting standards

United States international broadcasting shall—

- (1) be consistent with the broad foreign policy objectives of the United States;
- (2) be consistent with the international telecommunications policies and treaty obligations of the United States;
- (3) not duplicate the activities of private United States broadcasters;
- (4) not duplicate the activities of government supported broadcasting entities of other democratic nations;
- (5) be conducted in accordance with the highest professional standards of broadcast journalism;
- (6) be based on reliable information about its potential audience;
- (7) be designed so as to effectively reach a significant audience; and
- (8) promote respect for human rights, including freedom of religion.

(b) Broadcasting principles

United States international broadcasting shall include—

- (1) news which is consistently reliable and authoritative, accurate, objective, and comprehensive;
- (2) a balanced and comprehensive projection of United States thought and institutions, reflecting the diversity of United States culture and society;
- (3) clear and effective presentation of the policies of the United States Government and responsible discussion and opinion on those policies, including editorials, broadcast by the Voice of America, which present the views of the United States Government;
- (4) the capability to provide a surge capacity to support United States foreign policy objectives during crises abroad;
- (5) programming to meet needs which remain unserved by the totality of media voices available to the people of certain nations;
- (6) information about developments in each significant region of the world;

(7) a variety of opinions and voices from within particular nations and regions prevented by censorship or repression from speaking to their fellow countrymen;

(8) reliable research capacity to meet the criteria under this section;

(9) adequate transmitter and relay capacity to support the activities described in this section; and

(10) training and technical support for independent indigenous media through government agencies or private United States entities.

(c) Voice of America broadcasts

The long-range interests of the United States are served by communicating directly with the peoples of the world by radio. To be effective, the Voice of America must win the attention and respect of listeners. These principles will therefore govern Voice of America (VOA) broadcasts:

(1) VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.

(2) VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.

(3) VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussions and opinion on these policies.

(Pub. L. 103-236, title III, § 303, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 433; Pub. L. 103-415, § 1(p), Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4301; Pub. L. 105-277, div. G, subdiv. A, title XIII, § 1323(d), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-778; Pub. L. 105-292, title V, § 502, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2811.)

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (a)(8). Pub. L. 105-292 added par. (8). Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 105-277, § 1323(d)(1), which directed amendment of par. (3) by inserting “, including editorials, broadcast by the Voice of America, which present the views of the United States Government” after “policies”, was executed by making insertion after “policies” the second time it appears to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (b)(4) to (10). Pub. L. 105-277, § 1323(d)(2), (3), added par. (4) and redesignated former pars. (4) to (9) as (5) to (10), respectively.

1994—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-415 added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-277 effective Oct. 1, 1999, see section 1301 of Pub. L. 105-277, set out as an Effective Date note under section 6531 of this title.

BROADCASTING INFORMATION ON STATES

Pub. L. 105-277, div. G, subdiv. B, title XXIV, § 2420, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-835, provided that:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Voice of America shall devote programming each day to broadcasting information on the individual States of the United States. The broadcasts shall include—

“(1) information on the products, tourism, and cultural and educational facilities of each State;

“(2) information on the potential for trade with each State; and

“(3) discussions with State officials with respect to the matters described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

“(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998], the Broadcasting Board of Governors of the United States Information Agency shall submit a report to Congress detailing the actions that have been taken to carry out subsection (a).

“(c) **STATE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘State’ means any of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any commonwealth or territory of the United States.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 6204 of this title.

§ 6203. Establishment of Broadcasting Board of Governors

(a) Continued existence within Executive branch

(1) In general

The Broadcasting Board of Governors shall continue to exist within the Executive branch of Government as an entity described in section 104 of title 5.

(2) Retention of existing Board members

The members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors appointed by the President pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A) before the effective date of title XIII of the Foreign Affairs Agencies Consolidation Act of 1998 and holding office as of that date may serve the remainder of their terms of office without reappointment.

(3) Inspector General authorities

(A) In general

The Inspector General of the Department of State and the Foreign Service shall exercise the same authorities with respect to the Broadcasting Board of Governors and the International Broadcasting Bureau as the Inspector General exercises under the Inspector General Act of 1978 and section 3929 of this title with respect to the Department of State.

(B) Respect for journalistic integrity of broadcasters

The Inspector General shall respect the journalistic integrity of all the broadcasters covered by this chapter and may not evaluate the philosophical or political perspectives reflected in the content of broadcasts.

(b) Composition of Board

(1) The Board shall consist of 9 members, as follows:

(A) 8 voting members who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(B) The Secretary of State who shall also be a voting member.

(2) The President shall appoint one member (other than the Secretary of State) as Chairman of the Board, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

(3) Exclusive of the Secretary of State, not more than 4 of the members of the Board appointed by the President shall be of the same political party.

(c) Term of office

The term of office of each member of the Board shall be three years, except that the Sec-