

FCC 62-801

**BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

In re  
FCC WARNS ABOUT BROADCAST OF CONTROVER-  
SIAL FOREIGN MATTER WITHOUT INDICATING } Public Notice—B  
FOREIGN SPONSORSHIP

(August 1, 1962)

It has come to the Commission's attention that certain foreign documentary films and other broadcast matter containing political propaganda or controversial matter, sponsored and paid for by foreign governments and distributed by their agents in this country, have been broadcast by licensees without any indication to the public as to the foreign sponsorship involved.

Section 317 of the Commissions Act, as implemented by FCC rules (Section 3.119, 3.289 and 3.654), require, in substance, a sponsorship announcement fully and fairly disclosing the true identity of the person or persons furnishing such material, which would include identification of the foreign principal concerned. The act further places an obligation on Commission licensees to exercise reasonable diligence to obtain, from those with whom they deal directly in connection with any program, information to enable them to make the required announcement. In addition, Section 508 of the act provides for certain disclosures where payments are made to persons other than licensees for the broadcast of programs. The purpose of these provisions is to assure in these instances that the public will be informed as to the source of sponsored broadcast material carried over the public airways which treats with political or controversial subjects.

The foregoing is brought to the attention of Commission licensees in order that they may take such action as may be appropriate to comply with the requirements of the act in this regard.