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Eight Brandt Men Ask U.S. to Close Radio Free Europe

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BONN — Eight Social Democratic deputies have appealed to President Nixon to close down Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty when current appropriations run out June 30.

It was the first direct attack on the two American-financed stations from West German government ranks. It did not represent the official view of Chancellor Willy Brandt's cabinet, but it appeared certain to reinforce the arguments of Sen. William J. Fulbright, D-Ark., and others that the Munich-based stations should be closed down.

The eight deputies, all from the left wing of Brandt's party, sent their cable to Nixon four days ago, with a copy to Brandt. They called the two stations "stumbling blocks" whose existence raised doubts about West German sovereignty.

Government spokesman Conrad Ahlers said the significance of the two stations in spreading information among the peoples of Eastern Europe was recognized. But he stressed that the programming should not harm the foreign policy of the Federal Republic.

The two stations have been in political hot water here since last year when Sen. Clifford M. Case, R-N.J., revealed they were being secretly financed by the Central Intelligence Agency. This added new fuel to Communist attacks on the "hate senders."

There is little question that the stations, even though their anti-communism has been toned down in recent years, have not always been in accord with Brandt's policy of rapprochement with East Europe. But the chancellor has diplomatically avoided a confrontation with the United States on the issue.