

TRANSCRIPTON OF INTERVIEWS

MOSCOW, December 17, 1987

Henrich Y  
SU-Y

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The general program decisions are within the framework of long-term planning. Television is a state organization financed by the state. He says they do not pretend to be independent. Their budget is \$3 billion. They have 83,000 employees, 117 television stations each producing some programming. They broadcast in more than 40 languages on television and more than 70 on radio. There are state television and radio committees of the Union and in each of the Republics.

The State Committee on Television and Radio broadcasting is the top governing body. Its chair is a member of the government and of the Central Committee and a deputy in the Supreme Soviet. His membership in the government is as the chair of the State Committee which has functions similar to that of a ministry but in effect, broader. The reason is that their activities transcend the areas for which ministries are responsible. They can act between and among ministries, between the state radio and the PTTs, the Postal Telegraph and Telephone companies, between the television network or broadcasting and industry and technical

development. For example, they can ask and finance technical developments rather than only purchase what is available as most other ministries do.

Television and radio is a state monopoly. They have no competition. They coordinate activities, do not compete, but which means that they can be complementary in their programming, providing their viewers a choice of different programming at the same time rather than competing with similar programming, dividing the audience of a particular program. The programming is organized into 13 program departments and one department that arranges the schedule. Some of these departments are the youth department, the news department which is divided into domestic and foreign sections, technical department, research department, and internal education or training department facilities department, etc. There is an entertainment department which is divided into musical programs and drama productions which produce.

About 96 the second program. The program policies are developed in terms of long-range planning. Decisions are made by the board, that is the committee, acting on usually on recommendations and requests from the departments.

There are some series only of 10 or 12 episodes. This is dramatic series produced by the television radio department and then there is also the department that negotiates for the use of films.

There are some 300+ dramatic classics in the library recorded on videotape. The television is constantly looking for interesting new theater performances to record. Formerly, they used to record them on the stage and some theaters didn't mind

that but many objected to it. Now they negotiate with the theater to bring the company into the studio and they get extra pay for that which before they usually didn't get for recording a theatrical performance. There are many local theaters and theater is very popular in the Soviet Union. It is difficult to get tickets which are very cheap to any theater. Before theater owners would want television to wait a period of time, sometimes as long as one or two years before performing a recorded play. By now the audiences are educated to theater and owners of theaters realize that it is more likely to create than to take away from the potential audience. There is no provincial theater in the Soviet Union. Many small towns have excellent theatrical companies, some even very famous actors, directors, and producers.

The dramatic plays in the archives of television are repeated only about once every two or three years except that a few popular or topical plays may be repeated sooner.

Negotiations with the film industry also achieved that the filmmakers no longer the television wait of two or three years before a film can be televised.

Interview with G. Iushkiavichius  
December 17, 1987

Chmn Gostel also member of CC and deputy of Supreme Soviet.  
Gostel higher than ministry, because it conducts business within  
its own branch and between other ministries involved in televi-  
sion.

Coordinates with PPT, and R & D in industries for dev and produc-  
tion of equipment.

Coordinates programs so that they do not compete.

14 departments for content (including radio) and one dept for  
Programming (scheduling). plus (??) Refresher Course Institute;  
Department for construction of new facilities, finance depart-  
ment, dept for R & D.

Vice-Chm for each dept. Iush is technology, special projects,  
production (means of production of programs).

42 hrs. 36 minutes per month=news.

Plan: general plan for year; then month, then week. to prevent  
overlap between programs.

2nd Program: more entertainment, sports  
1st Program: can be viewed in all cities; 70% can see 2nd  
Program; 96% can see 1st Program.

News not delayed broadcasting, but continuous editions. Begin  
with program for the East; then work westward. Gostel works  
practically 24 hrs. per day.

Contents of programs planned by individual depts. Direction of  
programming is part of long-term planning. There has not been  
enough emphasis on entertainment.

Long-term plans for movies: 2-3 yrs.; drama-1 yrs.; proposals  
made by departments.

Information programs developed at department level--like CBS,  
can't miss what is important for the country.

Serial drama--10-12 episodes; nashi sosedy [our neighbors]

Classic vs. new drama

300 classics are in library, recorded. Have to redo some, since  
they were in black and white. In last 2 years, many productions  
of local theaters.

Attestatsia [merit evaluations]

tests for professional eval; regular evaluation. Individuals  
told (e.g.) can expect in one year to be promoted, or must  
improve something. Just begun for several categories of  
personnel--will be conducted every 2 or 3 years. Director  
[regisseur--involves function of producer, as well] has been  
evaluated for long time.

*Yus. doc*

Henrikas Yuskiavitshus, Interview Dec. 17, 1987

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episodes. This is dramatic series produced by the television radio department and then there is also the department that negotiates for the use of films.

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