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1323:radio:

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havana, aug 27, reuter -- the powerful signals of the newly created +voice of cuba+ that were beamed northward toward the united states in a four-hour test run last wednesday are a preview of the retaliation the cubans have in mind if the u.s. government sponsored, spanish language station, radio marti, goes on the air beaming messages to cuba designed to destabilise cuba's revolutionary regime.

the test was transmitted on three a.m. frequencies, the band most listened to in the united states by the general public. the programming consisted of cuban music interspersed every half hour by world news. the broadcasts are in english.

Last week cuban president fidel castro told a voice of america correspondent here that if radio marti begins to transmit, cuba will be prepared +to make it easier for americans to listen to cuban music...+

--more. lem/syl

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1336:radio 2 havana:

the idea of establishing a station modelled on radio free europe to beam political broadcasts to cuba was proposed by the reagan administration last year. the u.s. house of representatives approved a bill to finance the station, but the u.s. senate has still not acted on the proposal.

despite the fact that the bill creating radio marti has not been signed into law, the united states navy is already constructing antennae for it on one of the florida keys. lieutenant mark neuhart, a u.s. navy public relations officer told the miami herald recently that two of the towers are already completed and that the project should be terminated by the end of the summer.

the idea of radio marti has aroused strong opposition from the national association of broadcasters who fear that cuban retaliatory broadcasts on medium waves bands will interfere with commercial broadcasting in the southern and even northern united states.

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1344:radio 3 havana:

Last year the newe york times published what was purported to be a confidential report to the u.s. ~~state~~^{state} department in which severalif the u.s. diplomatic mission members in havana scathingly denounced the idea of creating +radio marti+ alleging that the voice of america had already gained prestige in cuba.

privately, u. s. diplomats here have expressed the opinion that +radio marti+ with its overt hard line propaganda slant would be counter-productive. they declared that the +voice of america+, with its soft-sell and more objective technique, would be more effective in terms of achieving u.s. aims.

wayne smith, the former head of the u.s. interests section in havana who retired from the state department last week, testified before a senate committee that radio marti would backfire.

according to diplomatic sources here, smith believes the reagan administration's policy toward cuba is provocative.

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1400:radio 4 havana:

it has been known here for months that the cuban government had organised a special task-force to develop programming for a cuban english language station that would be put on the air when radio marti began its broadcasts.

rumours were that the cuban station would be called +radio lincoln+ in reprisal for the united states government's use of the name of jose marti, cuba's revered leader of the fight for independence against spanish rule in the last century.

in a speech earlier this year, cuban president fidel castro quoted passages from jose marti to prove that the cuban hero was a decided opponent of u.s. influence in cuba.

—reuter lem/syl