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CHESHIRE FREE RADIO ORGANISATION

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Alfred Sullivan

NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER NO.3 FEBRUARY, 1972

"KEEP R.N.I. BROADCASTING"

The recent trouble between the off-shore stations of R.N.I. and Radio Veronica may have endangered the futures of both stations, and now that the Dutch Government is contemplating legislation on off-shore radio, it seems that R.N.I. and Veronica will need even more support at this crucial stage.

It is for this reason that C.F.R.O. has made this urgent appeal, as indeed all the other Free Radio Organisations. We are asking you to do everything you can to publicise R.N.I. and to tell all your friends to listen-in, because it is their support and yours which will ultimately help the station keep going. It is true that Radio Caroline had many millions of listeners whilst on the air, but now Veronica and R.N.I. are the only two remaining off-shore radio stations, and that should Holland, in accordance with most other European countries and Great Britain pass laws against them, then it is certain that we will have heard the last of free radio as we know it.

It is perhaps a great pity that the ship "King David" (the former Capital Radio Ship) cannot be purchased by some wealthy Swiss businessmen, because during its short and troublesome life as Capital Radio, much work was done on the ship, and as far as we know it is still lying changed up in Amsterdam Harbour of course needless to say it would be difficult to overcome the Dutch Government when it came to extricating it from the port. Scheveningen has become famous as the "Graveyard" of pirate ships namely Caroline and Radio London and almost more recently nearly claimed the Mebo II when a great part of the ship was destroyed by fire after a bomb attack.

Erwin Meister and Edwin Bollier have no doubt done marvelously well in keeping R.N.I. going as long as it has been, and where the financial support is derived from still remains a mystery. However it seems that every time a station is successful in keeping alive for more than a few months, people tend to take it for granted that free radio has returned and lose interest. No doubt after the first time R.N.I. closed down on September 24th 1970 most people would have agreed that we would never see another off-shore station (apart from Radio Veronica of course) but owing to a miracle the station did return to the air, thanks to our friends as above. What most people did not realise was that all the advertisements which were used before the first closedown were not paid for, and were used without any commission whatsoever.

It is only recently that R.N.I. have started to acquire some advertisements, whether these are paid for or not we do not know but it is obvious that it is costing a lot of money to keep the station going, and sooner or later that money will come to an end. This is why support is needed now, and not later when it is too late.

FREE RADIO PUBLICATIONS

Paul Harris wrote a very successful book on free radio entitled "When Pirates Ruled The Waves" His more recent book entitled "To be a Pirate King" is a more controversial book as it goes into the political background of R.N.I. and Veronica and includes a large section on the efforts of the owners of Capital Radio. Quite a few free radio organisations have declined to publicise this latest book because it openly condemns the owners of R.N.I. for broadcasting for political motives. Whilst not agreeing with everything that Paul Harris has to say we must emphasise that it is an extremely good book and well worth reading it is set out more like a spy novel than a free radio book! Should you be interested in either of his two books or other free radio books such as "History of Off-shore Radio", "Radio Nord Story", they can be obtained by writing to the following address:- Impulse Publications, 28 Guild Street, Aberdeen, Scotland, ABl 2NB.

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"To be a Pirate King" is £2.00 "Radio Nord Story" £3.25 and the "History of Off-shore Radio" L.P. £2.25 also another interesting book called "Radio Caroline Story by John Venmore Rowland can be obtained from the Landmark Press, Suffolk, England.

#### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS - CHESHIRE REGION

Since the last newsletter there has been very little activity locally in land-based pirate stations. In fact after the last newsletter in which we mentioned quite a lot of details about the operator of our local pirate station Radio 225, we have had several complaints that this might have endangered his station. Whilst we agree that too much publicity may be harmful to such stations, we did not, we did not disclose too many facts about it. However, in future we shall just give details of the stations themselves and try not to go into their location or too many personal details of their operators.

Radio 225 is still operating the times of operation being as follows:-

Week Nights	5.45 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. (Continuous music with Man of Action Theme at half hourly intervals.
Weekends	from Midnight onwards, Saturday and Sunday.

In Liverpool another land-based station "Radio Liverpool" has also made a few broadcasts at weekends on 227 metres but his signal is very weak and unless you live close to the transmitter it would be very difficult to receive it. However, the operator of the station tells us that his signal has been picked up as far away as Formby, but the land- between Liverpool and Formby is relatively flat and the signal can travel quite well across it. We have also had reports that the station has been picked up in Bromborough, so we can only assume that it must depend on the type of receiver you have and the weather conditions.

Radio Galaxy, broadcasting on 217 metres is the latest addition to the free radio clan on Merseyside but again has a very weak signal and can only be received within a short radius of the transmitter (about 4 miles). This station is operating from Prenton on the Wirral times of broadcast being very sparse, and mainly in the afternoons at weekends.

We learn from Radio 225 that the station is about to close for modifications to the transmitter, and that the station will re-open in the Spring with a more powerful broadcast and from a different location. As yet we have no more news on this station, probably because we gave him too much publicity last time!

#### SWISS BUSINESS FIRM ATTEMPT TO OPEN NEW RADIO STATION

To conclude this newsletter we have some rather exclusive news about a new radio station which is due to open this month, and will be based in one of the old pirate ships which has been purchased and renovated for the purpose. C.F.R.O. were informed of this station last November, but at the time it was uncertain as to how this station would turn out and what vessel they were about to purchase. In their last newsletter to us the Swiss firm stated that they were looking over several ships with a view to using one of them as an off-shore station, and that they were particularly interested in the ship M.V. Galaxy. We have written to the firm recently to find out the latest developments, and we will keep you posted should we hear anymore news of this station. Should you require any more information about this station, please write to us.

#### FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Owing to the fact that we have had some trouble with the printing of newsletters we have been unable to meet our deadline in sending them out. However, in future we are hoping to become more progressive in this field, but you must appreciate that there are financial outlays to be made. While we do not expect you to send a regular membership to C.F.R.O., we would ask you to help out as much as possible by sending and s.a.e. when you require a swift reply and should you require any further details about other free radio organisations we should be pleased to give them to you. Meantime if you would like to write to the Free Radio Campaign themselves I am sure that they would be pleased to hear from you and you can write to them at this address:- Tony Rounthwaite, Free Radio Campaign, 12 Queens Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

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They will be able to furnish you with many useful items such as posters and stickers publicising R.N.I. and Veronica.

Keep up the good work, and remember that R.N.I. is your station.

for CHESHIRE FREE RADIO ORGANISATION

*Phil Price (Area Organiser)*

P. Price.

P.S. R.N.I. Stickers for letters, Stationery etc., @ 2p each -  
and don't forget that stamped addressed envelope.