

25 April 1992

New York, NY 10017

Re: Russian News on C-SPAN

Dear Sirs,

As a long-time student of the Russian language and of Eastern Europe in general, I was delighted to discover that C-SPAN was broadcasting the Moscow news. However, I have since been disappointed by a number of aspects of your broadcasts.

Firstly, it was particularly disheartening not to be able to hear the original Russian. I am sure many students of the language have stopped watching because of the voice-over by the interpreter. Wouldn't it be possible to have subtitles instead? I know this is costly and time-consuming, but the broadcasts would be infinitely more useful to many of us. The French news on CUNY is subtitled quite well and they have less time to do it in than you would, given the greater time difference with Moscow. Or perhaps you could transmit the news

2) sometimes with and sometimes without interpretation?


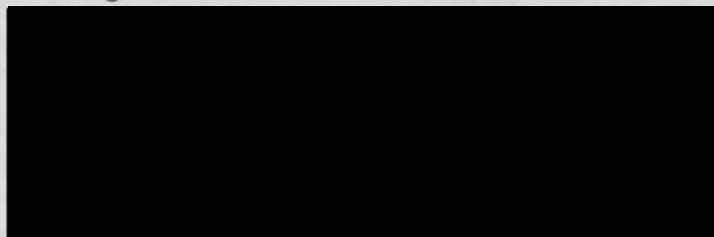
This brings me to my second point, the inadequacy of the interpretation at present. I would suggest you obtain the services of someone of English mother-tongue rather than a Russian with ^{pretty} good English, but whose expression is sometimes very strange, his pronunciation downright weird. (Yesterday he referred to "protecting Russia's shoulder" and only from the context could one guess that the original must have meant something like "Russian border regions" or "the Russian flank"!) He also uses Russianisms that are absolutely incorrect in English: thus, "congratulate ~~with~~ the holiday" for wishing a happy Easter.

This is really poor and I am sure you could find competent English mother-tongue interpreters to replace your present one. Certainly there are a number here in New York (at the UN in particular) who would do the job much better.

Lastly, I have been confused and annoyed by the inaccuracy of the published schedule of times of broadcasts. Often you are advertised as broadcasting at, say, 6 p.m. ~~and~~ ^{but}

3) In effect there's something quite different showing. Why is this? Last night I happened upon the Moscow News late at night (9 or 10, I forget exactly), whereas the programme had "Event of the Day". Do you have an accurate programme schedule I could have to be sure not to miss this important programme (in spite of its shortcomings!)?

Yours faithfully,



C. SPAN
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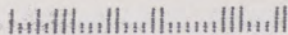


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