

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Head Office : Broadcasting House, London, W.1

Bush House, South East Wing, Strand, London, W.C. 2

TELEPHONE: TEMPLE BAR 4383

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: BROADCASTS, TELEX, LONDON

2nd July 1956

Professor Frank Pierce,
President, Anglo-Catalan Society,
The University of Nottingham,
University Park,
Nottingham.

Dear Sir,


Thank you for your letter of June 20th about our Spanish Service's broadcasts in Catalan. I should explain, first of all, that the responsibility for deciding in what languages (and how much in the chosen languages) the BBC broadcasts to Europe lies not with the BBC but with the Foreign Office.

In the year July 1954 - July 1955 the number of our broadcasts in Catalan was 16 - considerably less, in other words, than an average of one a fortnight. We make a practice not of explaining why programmes are being given up but of 'trailing' and explaining new programmes: that more positive procedure was followed in this instance too. Broadcasts of Spanish regional interest (including Catalan) do continue, though in Castilian.

About your reference to broadcasts from Prague, Moscow and Belgrade in Catalan I can, I fear, make no useful comment. I can only repeat that the decision over own own Catalan broadcasts was and is one for the Foreign Office.

I should like to end (and, if possible, slightly to redeem) this somewhat bleak answer to your letter by saying that we here do sincerely appreciate your interest in the subject.

Yours faithfully,



(James Monahan)

Controller European Services