

The Association  
for International  
Broadcasting



# Interference and freedom of information



**Simon Spanswick**

Chief Executive

**AIB | Association for International Broadcasting**

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**Interference and  
freedom of information**



**Deliberate harmful interference -  
or jamming - is nothing new**



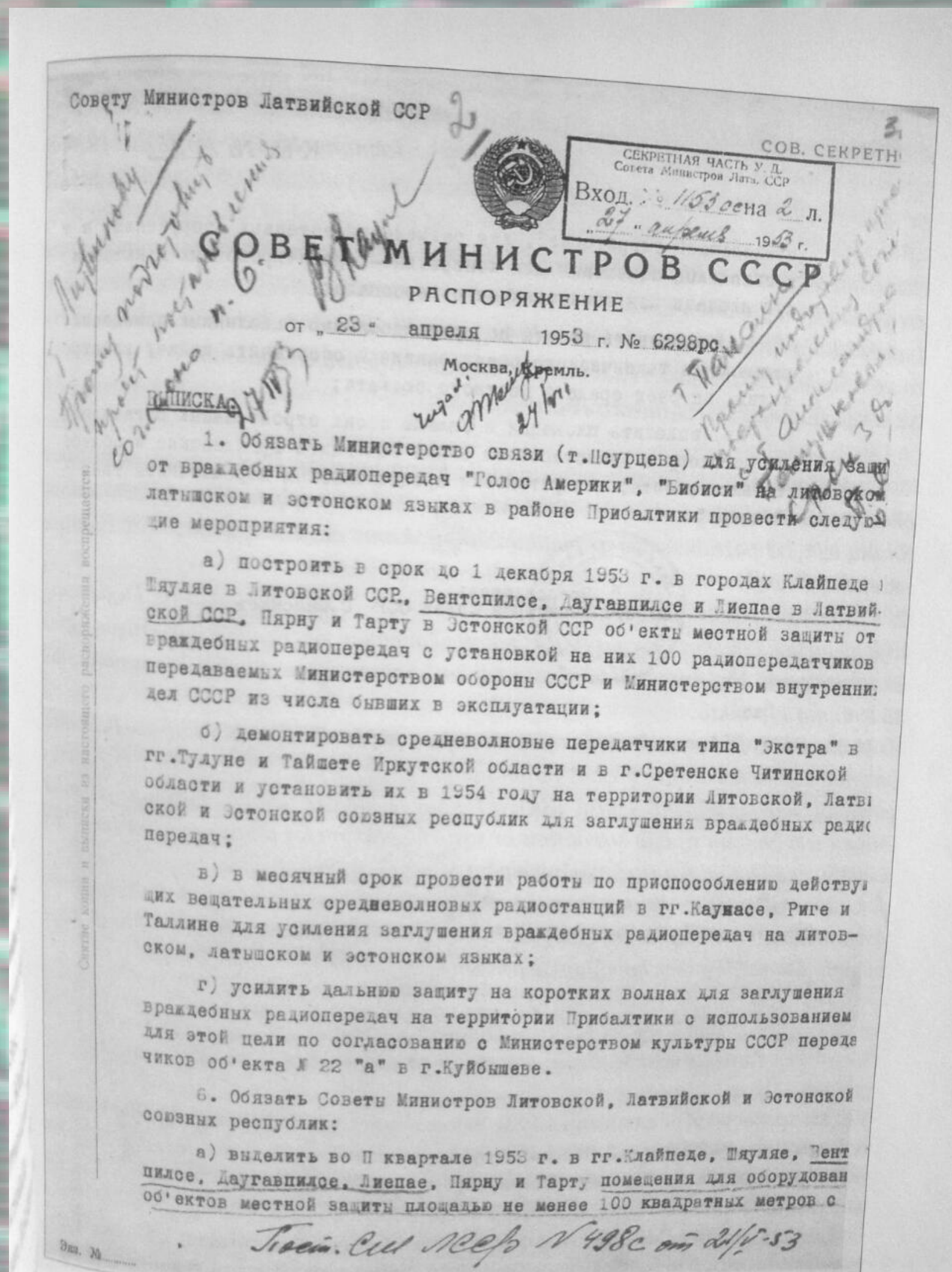
**In the 1940s, the Soviet Union started to jam broadcasts from the West - notably the BBC and Voice of America**



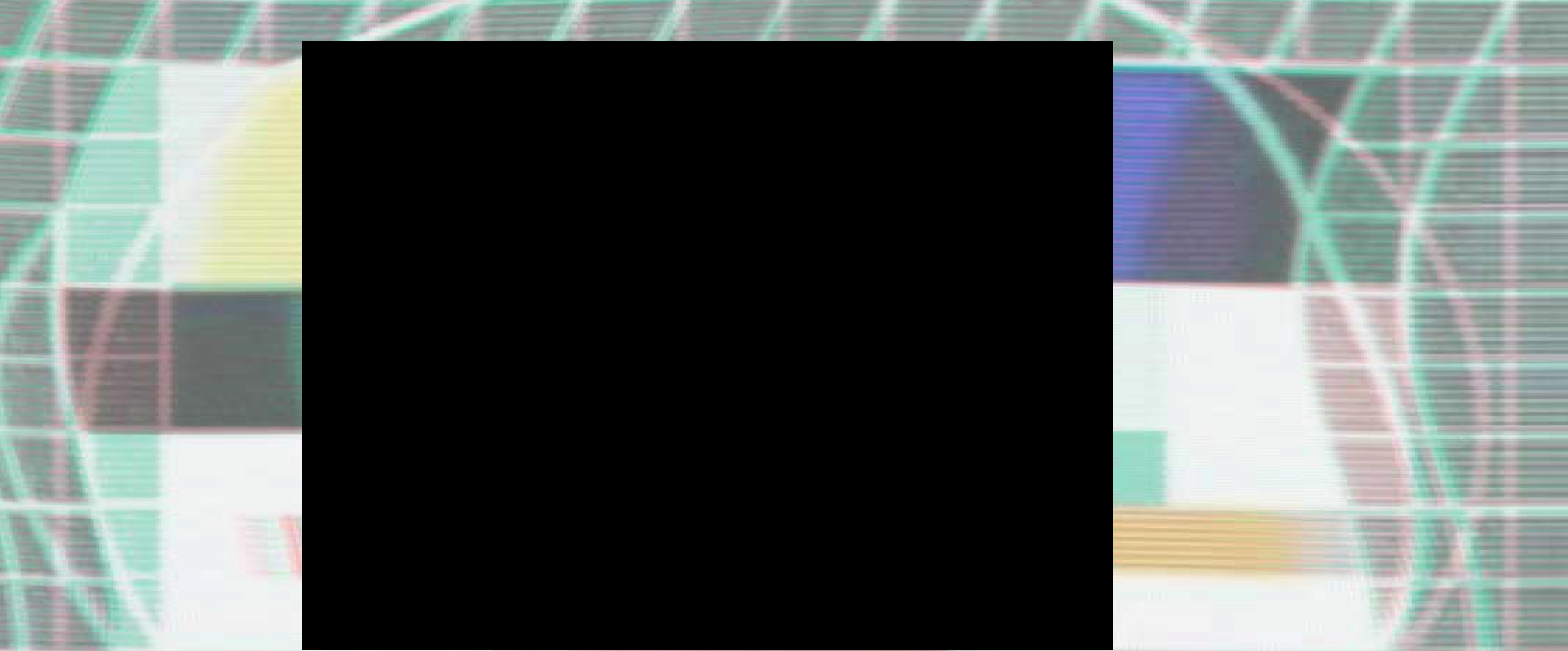
**This was jamming on an industrial scale.**

**Specialist jamming stations were constructed across the Soviet Union to interfere with Western - and even Albanian - broadcasts**









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**After the end of the Cold War,  
jamming of short wave  
broadcasts reduced  
dramatically.**

**Today, only a couple of  
countries systematically jam  
radio broadcasts.**



**However, jamming has migrated to satellite television.**

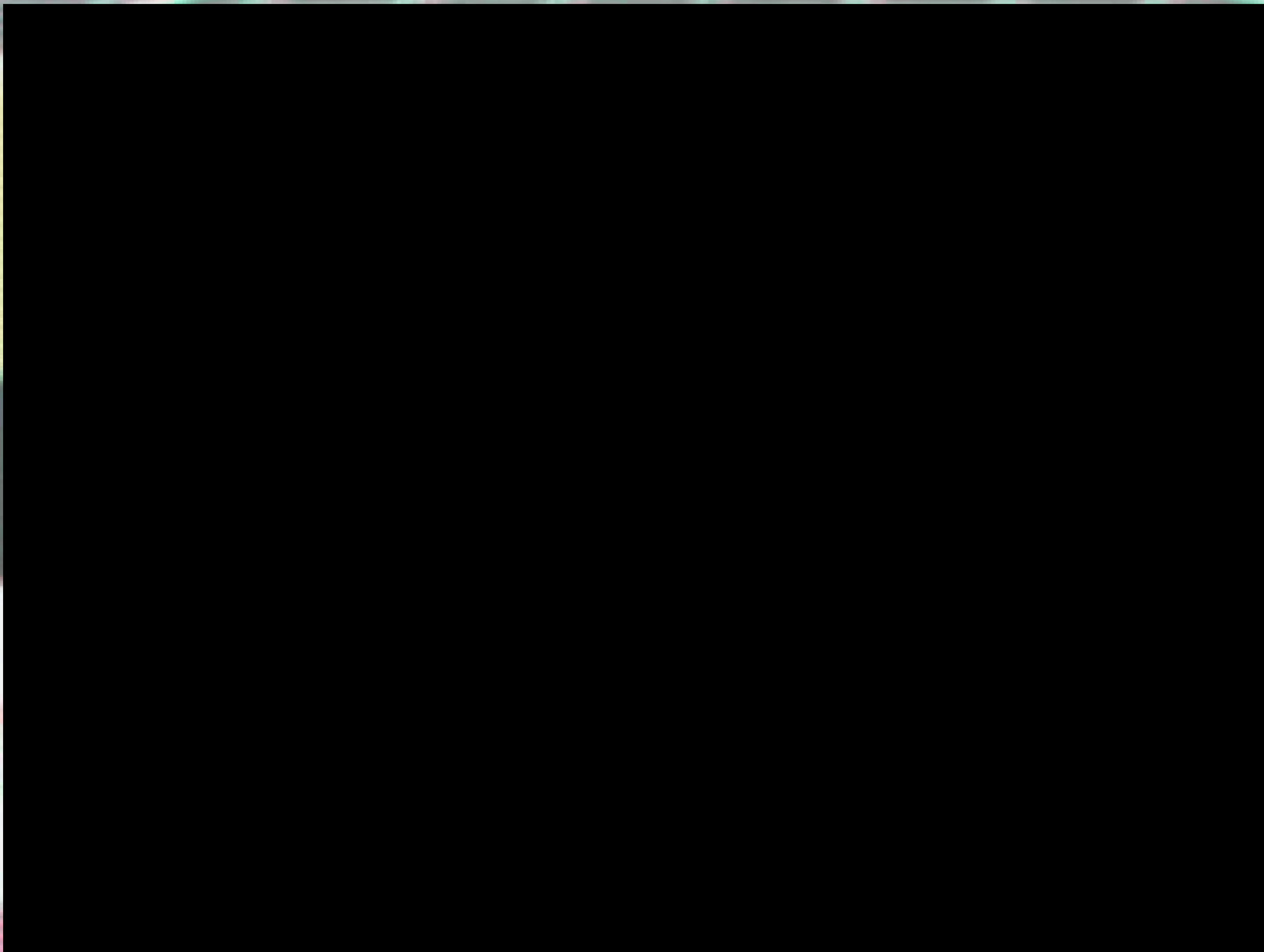
**Broadcasts from Al Jazeera, BBC, DW, VoA have all been targeted.**



**It still requires extensive resources to jam satellite broadcasting.**

**It's essentially only nation states that have the means to jam satellite TV services.**





# Interference and freedom of information



***“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”***



**AIB and its Members believe  
that fair and effective regulation  
is the solution - not heavy-  
handed jamming of signals**



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