



8-23-87

J. LIGHTENING

R.N.I.
496 LaGuardia Place
Suite 451
New York, N.Y. 10012
(718) 633-3010

Dear Benny;

Glad to hear from yet another name I consider to be synonymous with quality DX reporting. Your detailed reception report has been checked and verified against our air check.

Therefore, I can confirm your reception of RNI on 7-24-87. As with other reception reports from your neck of the woods (as opposed to our butt end of the concrete) reception was reliably noted on both MW & SW frequencies. Interestingly enough, most reports from your area noted the two signals comparable overall, or stated that the AM signal offered superior reception. The experimental LW frequency was only reported to have been heard by a few dolphins off the coast of Long Island, using long wire antennas and specially modified walkmans.

As you no doubt are fully aware by now, RNI was boarded by the FCC, which claimed it was operating illegally and in violation

of an obscure international broadcasting agreement. This, despite the fact that RNI was operating in international waters, on clear channels, so as to avoid interfering with any other broadcasts. The staff and management of RNI believed, and still does believe, that the operation was legal. In my opinion, only the actions of the federal agents who boarded the *Sandra* were illegal. I believe them to be guilty of kidnapping on the high seas - they are the real pirates in this situation.

The raid also resulted in the destruction of much of RNI's physical plant - even if our legal situation was favorably resolved today, the damage inflicted upon our audio and transmitting equipment would prohibit us from resuming operation for quite some time. RNI hopes to return to the air once the legal issues have been settled.

RNI was established as an alternative mainstream rock 'n' roll station, that would fill the programming void for real rock music that exist today. With a handful of overpriced consultants programming the majority of so-called rock stations, the sound that prevalent across the country is tired, bland and boring. Homogenized

and rapid, this type of radio is failing to serve a broad spectrum of Listeners, who are being deprived and denied their right to a radio station that is more than just the hits, ^{which plays} of music deemed as acceptable by the corporate owners who decide what we get to hear, while stifling any creativity or real displays of personality by their air staffs.

When RNI returns to the air (hopefully), it will strongly demonstrate what a superior rock station should sound like. With an air staff that is encouraged to do more than give the time, temperature and sound like the typically unwise and innocuous D.J.'s that unfortunately define the genre.

I'm sure all the positive press RNI has garnered, has helped spread our message, and answered many of the questions you've had since writing to us on 7-26-87. Regarding your request for an RNI rate card, we cannot comply as the rate structure had not been finalized when the ship hit the fan. Our initial test broadcast were only that, actual commercial operation was still some weeks away from becoming a reality.

Sorry but our official RNI QSL card has not been printed yet (our stock of crayons was also damaged during the siege and our staff artist is currently busy mining the bay area where the Sarah is located, to prevent against any future unauthorized boardings). For now, our highly prized (and hastily prepared) business card QSL is the best we can do. I will forward the real thing to you, as soon as it's available.

Thanks for your interest in RNI, and your best wishes. The staff greatly appreciates the overwhelming support our listeners have expressed.

If I can be of further assistance, please write or phone me, and I will get back to you at my earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Johnny Lightening

JOHNNY LIGHTENING
AIR STAFFER & RUN ON SENTENCE MASTER OF RNI

HEARD 7-24-87



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RECEPTION VERIFIED

RNI

RADIO

NEWYORK

INTERNATIONAL

GERAY L-DEXTER

1620 AM

6240 SW