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**Foreign Broadcast
Information Service**

NEWSLETTER

Edition 86-6

3 November 1986

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NOTICE

Field Bureaus are reminded that copies of this Newsletter should be destroyed after reading by U.S. Staff employees. This Newsletter is not to be retained in field bureaus.

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NEWSLETTER

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COVERAGE OF EL SALVADOR DISRUPTED BY EARTHQUAKE

Panama Bureau's remote monitoring operation, manned by a USIA local employee at the chancellery in San Salvador, was disrupted to some extent by the earthquake that rocked the city on 10 October. The FBIS contractor, equipment, and circuits all escaped injury, but the American Embassy itself sustained significant structural damage and embassy operations were moved to temporary locations. Remote coverage capability of the main San Salvador station remains, however, and Panama Bureau is covering the rebel radios from poorly heard shortwave transmissions.

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HEADQUARTERS AUTOMATION

A functional Design Review for the Classified Segment is scheduled for 17-20 November. This segment is the most complex, with capabilities similar to those available through SAFE: profiled mail delivery, word processing, data base management systems and text search. The most significant feature will be a 20-year FBIS Product Data Base.

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The first equipment for the Unclassified Segment is scheduled for delivery in two 18-wheelers to Reston the first week in November. This segment continues ahead of schedule, with initial transition operations planned for late March 1987.

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A detailed training and transition plan has been developed for the phaseover of the Wire, the Daily Report, and JPRS from their present MIDAS or manual modes to the ATEX/XYVISION system. Transition of Commo and the Wire is scheduled for late April, the Daily Report for late May, and JPRS for late June.

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FIELD MODERNIZATION

Vienna's automation experience (see "From the Field Bureaus") has been expanded to include the capture on a dedicated PC file server of incoming English-language press agencies and their selection and subsequent transmission--all in soft copy without any rekeying. Vienna's communicators are now using the IBM PCs on the LAN for all outgoing messages. ADD is conducting an extensive evaluation of word processing and text editing programs in an effort to identify a solution to the soft copy edit vs hard copy edit trace issue. The next major effort in Vienna will take place early next year and will involve additional monitorial and editorial workstations together with an intensive review of the "edit" issue.

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Key West Bureau will receive a simplified version of the Vienna LAN software and hardware in December to take advantage of a new 300-baud communications link. Communications upgrades may be possible for additional bureaus using a similar approach.

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Lockheed is continuing with design of the low cost automated bureau (LCAB). Present plans call for an initial design review in December. Lockheed will be working directly with CRW on the development of BACH 1.3 and subsequent BACH releases. This guarantees that lessons learned this summer will not have to be repeated.

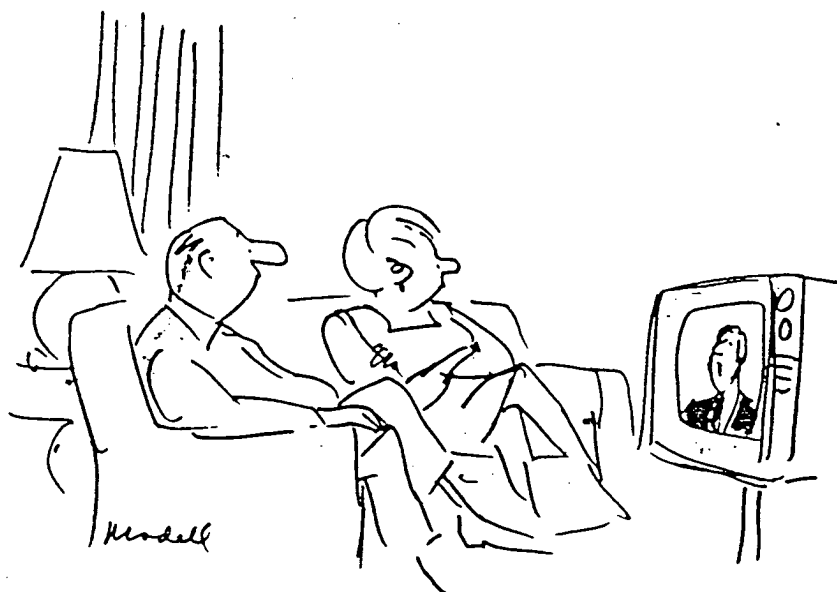
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HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN SEASON BEGINS

Health insurance open season will run from 10 November through 5 December. Employees will be able to switch to a different insurance plan or to change options within their current plan. Videotape briefings are being prepared and are available to field bureaus.

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"Good evening. Here is this evening's news, according to television."

CHERNOBYL CHRONOLOGY PROJECT

The FBIS Television Center is producing a series of videotapes chronicling the Chernobyl nuclear accident as broadcast by Soviet television since the first announcement last 28 April. The series includes all Soviet news coverage of the accident, special documentaries, and press conferences. To date, 13 hours of video have been supplied to a wide range of community and other Government consumers. The project is expected to last a year.

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SERVICE IS OUR LAST NAME

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FBIS was able to provide organization consumers and the White House Situation Room with the text of the 14 September Moscow television interview with former CIA employee Edward Howard within 5 hours of broadcast time. The interview was also monitored locally using the Headquarters TVRO antenna and videotape recordings were passed to key consumers.

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A member of Vice President Bush's staff asked FBIS to provide him with a brief analysis of a PRAVDA article criticizing the Vice President for comments he made on the Soviet role in the Middle East peace efforts. The analysis, characterizing overall Soviet commentary on the Middle East and describing the background of the author, was passed to the Vice President along with a copy of the PRAVDA article. [redacted]

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Responding to high-level consumer interest, London Bureau expedited handling of Al-Qadhdhafi's televised speech delivered to mark the 1 September revolution anniversary. A satellite feed of the 3-hour address was arranged through Visnews London, allowing analysts to view the videotapes the next day. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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Three TRENDS articles prepared by AG China Branch were passed to Secretary of Defense Weinberger prior to his departure for China by the chief of the President's Daily Brief Staff. [redacted]

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State's Bob Bentley phoned ELAAD/West Europe Branch to request the services of a French interpreter for the Justice Department for a 15-16 October meeting at the Justice Command Center at which the case of Georges 'Abdallah, the Lebanese being held by French authorities on terrorism charges, was to be discussed. To be present at the meeting were a French criminal lawyer hired by the U.S. Government to discuss legal strategy in the case, as well as a Paris Embassy staffer and organization personnel. [redacted] served as the interpreter. [redacted]

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INTELLIGENCE MEDAL OF MERIT FOR [redacted]

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The Acting DDS&T on 7 October presented the Intelligence Medal of Merit to [redacted] retired chief, Operations Group, FBIS, at a ceremony at Headquarters. [redacted] was cited for outstanding managerial and executive ability in contributing significantly to the mission of the organization for 31 years. [redacted] came to FBIS from the former OCR with the FDD merger in 1967 and served in the field as chief, Caribbean Bureau, Puerto Rico, and chief, London Bureau. He served twice as chief, Production Group, and retired in January 1986. [redacted]

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NEW FOREIGN NATIONAL UNIT

FBIS Administrative Staff has created a new Foreign National Unit (FNU), which is separated from Personnel Branch Chief, FNU is responsible for all aspect of administrative personnel matters concerning bureau FBN employees, including TCN's and PRA's, and is the point of contact for personnel liaison with various Agency and Government components. [redacted] [redacted] has been assigned as Chief, FNU, effective 10 November. [redacted]

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REORGANIZATION OF PERSONNEL BRANCH

Personnel Branch continues to be responsible for support of all U.S. staff and U.S. contract employees in both Headquarters and the field. It has been reorganized into two foreign field support units, one responsible for Europe, Near East, and Africa, and one for East Asia, Latin America, and Key West, and a Headquarters unit responsible for all personnel assigned to FBIS Washington. These units are headed by [redacted] and [redacted] respectively. [redacted]

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PRODUCTION GROUP DEVELOPMENTS

SOVA told UD that translations published in the USSR REPORT: MILITARY AFFAIRS had provided the first detailed description of the reorganization of the Soviet Air Defense Forces, including their new territorial structure. [redacted]

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The first issue of UD's ECONOMIC PREVIEWS appeared in August. The new FBIS product, issued on FOREIGN PRESS NOTES letterhead, alerts consumers to a number of particularly significant items being translated for publication in the seven USSR reports dealing with economic topics. [redacted]

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UD compiled 260 pages of articles translated from the Soviet press on the Chernobyl accident. The material was published in a special subtitled report of the JPRS series POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS. Topics covered included the nuclear power plant fire, the sealing of the reactor, evacuation of the area, cleanup and mobilization, and environmental and health aspects of the accident. At the request of the Department of Energy, [redacted] of UD coordinated participation by FBIS in a rush translation of the 384-page advance report submitted by the USSR to the International Atomic Energy Agency on the Chernobyl accident. The translation was used to brief the U.S. delegation prior to its departure

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for the IAEA meeting in Vienna. [] also provided the linguistic support for the third and fourth edited installments of Moscow Television coverage of the Chernobyl cleanup. He identified the portions of "Vremya" newscasts to be clipped and combined chronologically by MOD. This project was undertaken by FBIS at the request of NPIC and the chief, Nuclear Energy Division, OSWR. []

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At the request of OSWR, FLASC translated a series of Russian-language technical terms needed by the U.S. delegation to the Nuclear and Space Talks with the Soviets in Geneva. The delegation wanted accurate translations of the terms to provide clear language for any documents drafted at the talks. []

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S&T Center Chief [] briefed a working group of the Committee on International Science Engineering and Technology, a committee of the National Science Foundation composed of representatives of the White House, State, Commerce, the USTR, and NSF. [] discussed S&T-related products of FBIS, and especially PERSPECTIVES. The NSF had requested information on foreign basic research and asked for aid in setting up an overseas operation similar to FBIS' overseas S&T units. []

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RESERVE SEMINARS ON AFGHANISTAN OPEN TO EMPLOYEES

The organization's military reserve unit, the Joint Military Reserve Training Command, is sponsoring a series of seminars on Afghanistan during October-November. All employees have been invited to attend the series, held Mondays just after regular duty hours and addressing such subjects as "Soviet Forces and Operations," "The Rebels and Their Support," and "U.S. Policy and Prospects." Seminar leaders are staff employees. []

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FROM THE FIELD BUREAUS

Data collected in the course of the economic survey of material carried by the broadcasters of Romania and Bulgaria, carried out at Austrian Bureau at the request of the BBC, was collated and the results forwarded to Chief, Operations, and Chief, London Bureau. Considerable unique economic information was found, but mostly of a very low level. []

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Total bureau wordage processed and filed using the Vienna local area network (VLAN) constituted 20.5 percent of Austrian Bureau's total wordage during September alone. Press agency wordage increased from 7,000 in August to 42,980 in September. Anticipating the installation of a computer in each of the four bureau radio monitoring units, monitors in the sections started looking over the shoulders of experienced VLAN users and started producing items for wirefiling using any free work stations they can find. Phase 1B of the VLAN was installed in August by an ADD team. []

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In Cyprus, the August terrorist attacks on the British base at Akrotiri prompted another upswing in Embassy concern over security. Embassy and Nicosia Bureau employees were reminded yet again to observe good personal security practices and to report promptly any suspicious activity or problems. []

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Jordan Bureau involvement in the use of its personal computers is progressing quickly. In addition to normal word processing applications, the bureau is using the PC's for the monthly staff and nonstaff personnel reports, monthly Telex bills for the Embassy, and the nonexpendable property inventory to produce the Annual Dollar Value Report. []

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Tel Aviv Bureau used the occasion of the recent visit by the deputy chief, Operations Group, to hold a formal open house for the bureau's new premises []

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Invited were all embassy officers and staff, representatives of the contractors involved in construction of the building and the bureau, and representatives of the diplomatic missions and companies located in the building. Some 125 visitors showed up for the wine and cheese buffet. []

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Nicosia Bureau administrative assistant [] visited Tel Aviv Bureau in September to work closely with Tel Aviv admin assistant [] to review bureau budgetary and administrative practices. []

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A 12-member State Department Foreign Buildings Office chancellery site selection team visited Abidjan Bureau in September and inspected five sites around the city. An area near the Hotel Ivoire in the Cocody section of Abidjan remains the primary site. The team very tentatively offered 1992 as completion date for the new chancellery. Members of the team are scheduled to return in the spring for the next phase of the process. []

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K. Spence Richardson, the new [] general, visited Okinawa Bureau in August for a briefing and tour. []

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Okinawa Bureau communications supervisor [] known to generations of editors as [] retired on 30 September, 5 days shy of 38 years with the bureau and 41 years with U.S. Forces Japan, at the age of 59. [] who began working for Okinawa Bureau in 1948, the bureau's first full year of operation, was feted at a dinner at the Kadena officers club. He received flowers from the communications section, a framed letter from the director, FBIS, the FBIS career service medal, and a framed certificate of appreciation from the Kadena base commander. The new communications supervisor is [] a teletypist since 1966. []

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A television tuner capable of receiving bilingual Japanese and English audio has been installed in the Japanese television booth at Okinawa Bureau. []

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Seoul Bureau employees, their families, and invited guests celebrated the 10th anniversary of the bureau's founding at a picnic on 31 August. Following hamburgers, volleyball, and a short speech by bureau chief [] senior editor [] performed a ceremonial cutting of the anniversary cake and presented the first piece to associate editor [] the bureau's first local employee, who entered on duty as an administrative assistant in August 1976. [] later announced her plan to retire in October in order to accompany her husband to the United States. []

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Hong Kong Bureau's arrangement with Philippine Airlines to receive the Manila papers from the first daily Hong Kong-Manila flight is proving successful. While deliveries have not always been completely reliable, the earlier arrival of the papers has enabled the bureau to scan, select, and file reports before the normal close of business. This means that consumers receive items some 16-24 hours earlier than had been the case with the earlier evening delivery and is more effective use of editors' and monitors' time. []

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Hong Kong was officially declared cholera-free on 20 August, 17 days after it was identified as an infected area. WHO regulations mandate a lapse of 10 days after the last confirmed case before an area can be declared free of infection. During the scare 22 cases of the disease were confirmed and thousands rushed to vaccination centers as the government tried to find the cause. Most of the victims came from a factory area of Kowloon or had eaten food sold by street vendors there. []

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Bangkok Bureau reports what it calls significant gains in experience in the use of in-house personal computers. The bureau is preparing the monthly FSR's, budget messages, satellite and radio cruising messages, the monthly report, cabinet and diplomatic lists, and finding other administrative uses. Satellite cruising messages are now done on

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diskettes as of September. About half the monitors are using PC's; their items are edited on the PC's and are given to the teletypists, who attach the appropriate message headers but no longer need to repunch the messages. []

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ROSET wordage at Paraguay Bureau jumped from 13,600 in July to 19,500 in August, to 58,250 in September, reflecting bureau coverage of the Brazilian Government news agency, to newscasts from Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo television, and, in September, coverage of Chilean events following the assassination attempt against Pinochet. []

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Three employees at Panama Bureau have marked their silver anniversary with FBIS: senior cruising monitor [] on 9 July, monitor [] on 6 August, and chief technician [] [] on 5 September. []

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The Key West city commission recently heard complaints from some concerned citizens that the concrete marker at the official southernmost point of the continental United States, which is just next door to the new housing area for Key West Bureau, is a "place of iniquity" where people indulge in "numerous illicit, immoral, and dangerous acts." The bureau chief notes that the Navy fortunately long has had a fence separating the U.S. property from the "lewd behavior, nudity, drinking, and smoking of illicit substances." []

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