

OVERT MONITORING SYSTEM

1. Its Mission

The Foreign Broadcast Information Branch of the Office of Operations operates an overt monitoring system reporting the content of a significant selection of broadcasts from foreign radio transmitters. This selection provides radio coverage of approximately 2,000,000 words each day of the 10,000,000 words broadcast daily by foreign transmitters. The important material contained in these broadcasts is made available principally to the State, War and Navy Departments; but also to the Commerce, Justice, Labor, and Agriculture Departments, interested members of Congress, and the Federal Reserve Board. In addition to the distribution to government offices, the FBIB Daily Reports are made available to representatives of the press and radio and to various university libraries.

The use by government agencies of the foreign radio broadcast material intercepted by FBIB falls into the following categories:

- (a) Intelligence -- Research units of intelligence offices utilize the content of foreign broadcasts for the specific intelligence items contained therein. In the Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Near East, Russia and the Far East especially, foreign radio broadcasts contain information not obtainable from any other source with the same speed and completeness, if at all.
- (b) Propaganda -- Foreign broadcasts represent one of the most important media of propaganda available to foreign governments. The content of such broadcasts is essential to officials responsible for the analysis of foreign propaganda

and the preparation of counter-propaganda measures.

(c) News -- Policy-making officials who need to keep abreast of day-to-day developments in foreign countries obtain such information more rapidly and completely through the monitoring of foreign broadcasts than is possible from other sources.

## II Its Operation

(a) Collection: The Foreign Broadcast Information Branch intercepts short and medium wave foreign transmissions [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]

Each monitoring station contains engineers, linguists, and editors who cover a definite schedule of programs each day. The hundreds of thousands of words monitored daily at each field station are screened in the field and the significant content is transmitted to Washington headquarters of FBIB by radio teletype.

(b) Processing and Distribution: Each day approximately 200,000 words of text is sent to Washington from the [redacted] field stations of FBIB. This represents the important substance of the more than 2,000,000 words monitored by FBIB linguists around the world.

The most urgent intelligence material is transmitted immediately via a direct wire service to the State, War and Navy Departments. This wire, which is known as the FBIB "A" wire, provides a running summary throughout the working day of the most significant broadcasts received from the field stations.

The urgent propaganda material from foreign broadcasts is transmitted immediately by a separate circuit known as the FBIB "C" wire to the State Department's International Broadcast Division in New York.

This wire is operated around the clock and provides the State Department with material for its counter-propaganda broadcasts to foreign countries.

Less urgent intelligence and propaganda material is distributed to interested government agencies in the form of a mimeographed "Daily Report of Foreign Broadcasts". This report is sub-divided into a European Section, Far Eastern Section, and Latin American Section, and contains on the average a total of 65,000 words of text. Over 650 copies of the Daily Report are distributed to government officials five days a week. This daily report is prepared by a staff of editors in Washington from the material transmitted to headquarters by the monitoring stations in the field.

Of the 200,000 words transmitted to Washington daily from the field, approximately half is not put on the wire circuits or in the daily reports because of physical limitations on the amount of wordage that can be handled by the present FBIB facilities. This is not destroyed, however, but is distributed by mail or courier to many different government offices in accordance with their specific needs for information contained in foreign broadcasts.

In addition to the above distribution of broadcast text, FBIB prepares periodically special topical and regional reports. Such reports condense all available information on foreign broadcasts pertaining to a given subject or to a particular part of the world.

### III. Proposed Changes in Operations

During fiscal year 1948, it is planned to relocate some of the existing field monitoring stations. These changes will be made in the interest of more economical operation, better reception or both; so that more and cheaper monitoring coverage can be provided without expanding existing

facilities. Present plans call for the relocation of the listening post at

[redacted]

[redacted]

It is hoped

that these moves will be completed by the end of fiscal year 1947, but unforeseen delays may postpone the transfer of facilities until fiscal year 1948.

In the Pacific, it is planned to construct a new monitoring station [redacted] to obtain more complete coverage of medium and short wave broadcasts from Siberia, Korea, China and other parts of the Far East. Once this station is constructed and is operating satisfactorily, it will be possible to discontinue the monitoring station [redacted]

[redacted]

It also may be necessary to move the existing monitoring station at [redacted] This transfer of facilities would not only be made to obtain better reception, but also may be necessary as a result of the present political instability [redacted]

IV. Its Cost

The overt monitoring system planned for fiscal year 1948 will require [redacted] of which would be unclassified and filled by native employees. It is estimated that the total cost of the FBIB operations will approximate [redacted]

In the estimates for the collection activities of FBIB, this request includes [redacted] employees with total annual salaries of [redacted] In the general administration, processing and distribution activities of FBIB, this request includes [redacted] employees with annual salaries totaling [redacted]

A detailed breakdown of personal services by organizational unit and of other obligations by appropriation symbol are included in the attached table.