

February 18, 1949

TO: P - Mr. Allen
THROUGH: OLI - Lloyd Lehrbas
FROM: IED - E. W. Beattie, Jr.
SUBJ: FBIB Material

In requesting that FBIB extend the operation of the wire service between their Washington office and IED, New York, from eight to sixteen hours daily, we are taking one step in the process which we hope eventually will produce a 24-hour-a-day connection between the two shops.

In the past we have been considerably handicapped by three things which operate to cut down the usefulness of the FBIB material -- and in this connection I might interpolate that the FBIB output is extremely valuable both to the main news desk and to other parts of the office. These three things were:

Firstly, shortage of material from certain specific areas like the Far East and Latin America, which deprived us of specially angled copy which would be of interest to listeners in those parts;

Secondly, insufficiency of "coverage" over the 24-hour period, which cut down our efficiency considerably in making up newscasts at various times of the day;

Third, slowness of transmission of copy originating at the monitoring base in England as compared with the BBC.

By increasing the transmission time to sixteen hours daily, a matter which we have discussed with both Colonel White and [redacted] of FBIB, we will enable the FBIB desk to start transmitting material much earlier in the day, concentrating at the start on Far Eastern items which will thus become available to us in the early morning in time for inclusion in the Far East broadcasts. This, in turn, will relieve the jam now apt to develop during daylight hours when the European material is pouring in and at the same time will make it easier to transmit during the afternoon such material as may be available from Latin America for use in the evening shows to that area. It will of course result in considerably greater volume of material, which will be all to the good. This measure certainly

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will not eliminate the time lag between the BBC's short-line transmission inside London and our own trans-Atlantic transmission of materials, but it will help to some extent by cutting down jamming on the wire.

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