

John O'Neil



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96301

17 April 1979
MSK9043

[Redacted]

Chief, Operations Group

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Dear John:

Subject: Seoul Bureau Technicians

[Redacted] spent 6-17 April TDY at Seoul Bureau to supervise the move of our remote monitoring unit from a shelter to its permanent site in the new operations building at [Redacted]. The move was completed with little difficulty and with only very little lost coverage during the 4 days our remote unit was out of operation.

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During his TDY, [Redacted] also closely reviewed the performance of our three technicians at Seoul Bureau since his transfer to Okinawa on 4 November 1978. [Redacted] confirmed that our senior local technician and the two technicians he supervises are capable of handling all day-to-day technical problems at the bureau, including those related to the functioning of our remote system.

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The only lingering problem our technicians are experiencing is that of occasionally delayed access to our remote unit, primarily as a result of the rapid turnover of military personnel at Pyongtaek. Approximately a week before [Redacted] arrival, for instance, our technician was denied immediate access to our unit by a new chief of the maintenance shop in which our unit is located. The INSCOM operations officer has agreed to provide us a letter authorizing our technicians access and they will carry the letter with them. Hopefully this will solve the problem.

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Our experience so far indicates our local technicians should be able to handle all day-to-day maintenance at Seoul Bureau and that we will not require the stationing of an American technician here. [Redacted] and I would like to give the current arrangement a little more time before making a definitive judgment, however. We should be able to make a firm judgment after [Redacted] next inspection visit.

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Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Chief, Seoul Bureau

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cc: Chief Engineer, Okinawa Bureau



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96301

15 March 1979
MSK9040

[Redacted]

Chief, Operations Group

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Dear John:

Subject: Russian Regional Monitoring

[Redacted] has confirmed during his current TDY here to check our reception of Soviet Far East regional stations that Seoul Bureau could regularly monitor Chita, Petropavlosk, Anadyr, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Ulan-ude, and Yakutsk, none of which is monitorable from Okinawa. We have been recording the above stations for processing by BBC.

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As you know, we have no Russian capability here and as a result, we have had some difficulty with our recording effort. Our technicians cannot keep up with routine changes in broadcast times or frequencies and therefore we have had to have [Redacted] and [Redacted] here on TDY to put the project back on track. Both [Redacted] and [Redacted] have worked with our technicians to enable them to recognize station identification signals and to do a better job of tuning in general, and their recording is considerably better now than previously. Nevertheless, we will probably never be able to do without periodic TDY's by Russian linguists.

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Given the number of Russian stations monitorable here and the difficulty of the recording effort without permanent Russian capability, I would recommend the addition of a Russian monitor to Seoul Bureau. There is clearly enough work here for one monitor, and indeed one would probably still have to mail some recordings to BBC for processing.

I would not recommend transferring one Russian monitor position from Okinawa, although that would be possible. My understanding is that covering MONTSAME in addition to the voice stations Okinawa now monitors requires two Russians. One of the Russian monitors now on Okinawa could be transferred here with the new recruit going to Okinawa.

Given the BBC interest in Russian regionals, it might be possible to have a BBC Russian monitor transferred to Seoul.

The addition of a TCN here would require Embassy approval, but I think that could be obtained. We would also of course have to acquire an additional Category III MODE authorization; again, I believe Embassy approval would be forthcoming.

If you approve the addition of a Russian monitor to Seoul Bureau, I would first attempt to find a local-hire monitor, although past efforts turned up no likely prospects and I doubt we would be any more successful this time.

Sincerely,



Chief, Seoul Bureau

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cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau