

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MBK-0033  
2 December 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Bangkok Bureau - November 1981

I. GENERAL

In the first major development for months in the Mission's battle with State Department over the impact of the Inter-Agency Position Classification System, a third year of grade retention was granted to Bangkok on 16 November. In effect, this extends the period of grade retention for all bureau employees and for other Mission personnel to 21 September 1983. All original grade retention privileges and restrictions remain in effect.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Thanks to editorial alertness, the bureau was able to provide consumers with the first monitored reportage of the 26 November attempted coup in the Seychelles and subsequent hijacking of an Indian airliner. Suspecting that something was amiss, duty editor [redacted] reacted quickly to a Hong Kong AFP item, datelined New Delhi, reporting that an Air India international flight en route to Bombay from Salisbury via the Seychelles had been diverted to an unknown destination. Treated as a hijacking, the item was filed operation immediate and cleared the bureau within 20 minutes of intercept. Subsequent reportage from AFP and All India Radio confirmed that the hijacking was part of an attempted coup in the Seychelles by mercenaries. Continued coverage of events was taken over by Abidjan and Nicosia bureaus as they opened and their reception of Paris AFP beams improved, while Bangkok continued to file New Delhi-datelined Hong Kong AFP items and All India Radio reportage. Bureau efforts to monitor Seychelles radio--Victoria FEBA English/French--proved unsuccessful.

25X

B. Lateral Services

1. On 3 November, Embassy political officer Ed McWilliams

DERIVATIVE CL BY [redacted]

25X

DECL  REVW ON 3 Dec 01

**CONFIDENTIAL** DERIVED FROM A9C (3.4)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

requested bureau assistance in translating a 7-page handwritten document given him by a "united Lao-Hmong organization." The document, which reported anti-Vientiane and anti-Vietnamese activities as well as the use of toxic chemicals in Laos, was translated in one day by Lao/Thai monitor [redacted]

25X

2. In support of a local CBS correspondent, Steve Patton, Embassy PAO Dick Virden requested bureau assistance in providing statistics on Soviet broadcasting to South Asia, particularly India. The Embassy had decided to provide Patton research assistance for an upcoming article on India in the magazine U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT. Virden assured us there would be no attribution to FBIS.

3. On 27 November, NPIC senior analyst [redacted] visited the bureau to pick up copies of FBIS materials dealing with the Kampuchea coalition talks. [redacted] previous NPIC representative in Bangkok, is on TDY doing research for an upcoming Special National Estimate. He was particularly interested in Vietnamese statements on the talks.

NFAC?

NFAC

25X

25X

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. At the bureau's recommendation, on 18 November FBIS Headquarters declared Bangkok Bureau a limited shipment post. Future staffers will be assigned Government-leased housing and will benefit from recently purchased new furnishings, including beautiful all-teak Thai-made furniture.

2. The search for the bureau's fourth Cambodian monitor continued without tangible results. In addition to a new candidate in Australia with whom the bureau is communicating, Headquarters requested materials early in the month to test a U.S.-based candidate. No word has been received from New Zealand or England recruiting efforts.

3. On 16 November, certificates for 10 years of FBIS service were presented to monitors [redacted]

25X

25X

B. Buildings and Grounds

By the end of the month, the new 3-position editorial desk was installed. The new desk arrangement provides for larger

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

editing workspace, gives easier access to the slot window, and allows for the removal of Extel printers from the desk onto a separate table accessible to all editors. The desk is also equipped with a "lazy susan" reference shelf that is popular at a number of other bureaus. Library enhancements, including a wall-mounted map rack, will be completed in the first week of December.

IV. VISITS

1. Only 3 weeks after his arrival, Ambassador John Gunther Dean visited the bureau on 6 November. Following a brief walk-through, the ambassador received a briefing on the bureau and on FBIS operations worldwide. He displayed particular interest in meeting and chatting with bureau employees and took the opportunity to express his high appreciation for the FBIS product, a comment he had made previously both socially and in a Country Team session.

2. On both 13 and 15 November, the bureau was visited by William Slayton, deputy assistant secretary for Foreign Buildings Operations (FBO), and a team of FBO officers. The FBO visitors, who were accompanied on both trips by the Embassy's new General Services Officer Truman Brown, were in Bangkok to survey U.S. Government-owned and rented properties and to conduct negotiations for the construction of a new Embassy building.

3. Maureen Kirkpatrick, INR/Biographic Unit, visited the bureau on the 20th to discuss reference materials and view our library holdings.



Chief, Bangkok Bureau, FBIS

25X

WRS:mk

Attachments:  
Engineering Report  
Production Report

Distribution: . . . . .

C/Okinawa Bureau

**CONFIDENTIAL**