

MGF 011-81

4 September 1981

Memorandum for: Director, FBIS
Through : Chief, Operations Group
Subject : Monthly Report--Gulf Bureau--August 1981

I. GENERAL

Gulf Bureau took over primary responsibility for GULF NEWS AGENCY/QATAR NEWS AGENCY/EMIRATES NEW AGENCY transmissions formerly covered by Jordan Bureau on 22 August. The long-awaited shift, which frees some of Jordan's monitors for other coverage, went quite smoothly. Gulf's Arabic team had been practicing mock coverage of the agencies, including complete logging, for some time prior to the actual switchover date.

As the arrangement now stands, Gulf covers the agencies from 0500 GMT signon through our 2030 GMT close of business. Jordan backstops and covers 2030-2100 GMT for any priority material with Gulf processing from repeats the following morning any routine items transmitted during the period. This worthwhile addition to the bureau's coverage provides more meaningful processing for our Arabic monitors and complements existing coverage of Gulf radio and television stations.

II. EDITORIAL/MONITORIAL

1. With its Russian monitor in place, Gulf began covering Russian regional radios this month. Although all the regionals are poorly heard at the moment, the bureau filed its first Russian item from Baku Domestic Service on 9 August.

2. The bureau assumed coverage of Iranian clandestine radios from Nicosia Bureau 11-15 August while its Persian monitor was on leave. The bureau also covered Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu at 1500 GMT 25 July-26 August while one of Bangkok Bureau's monitors was on leave.

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3. The clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio broadcast what the radio purported to be an eyewitness account of the hijacking of the Iranian naval patrol boat in the Mediterranean. The report, said to be by the radio's "war correspondent," was initially FYI'ed and subsequently filed in two takes.

4. Four more videotapes containing Arabic programming were forwarded to FCS. These tapes are being used for language training purposes.

III. VISITS

1. AG Chief Analyst [redacted] visited the bureau 10 and 11 August as part of her area familiarization tour. In addition to meeting with the Ambassador, the USICA representative and others, Avis provided useful information for our fledgling monitors on Analysis Group's interests and techniques. STAT

2. B&F Chief [redacted] met with bureau staffers and Embassy personnel 30 August-1 September. [redacted] was able to answer several questions from the Embassy concerning FBIS fiscal procedures that differ from State practice. STAT

3. Jordan Bureau Chief Monitor [redacted] paid an informal visit 7-9 August while on personal travel to Bahrain. Ali, who had met and interviewed some of our Arabic trainees in Amman, was pleased to be able to renew acquaintances. STAT

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Bureau Chief