

6 July 1981

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Nicosia Bureau--June 1981

I. GENERAL

On 29 June, the bureau began experimental coverage of Athens FM transmissions from a Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA) site above Paphos on the western edge of the island. A survey earlier in the month had shown that summer reception of several Greek FM stations was excellent, and CYTA agreed to establish a temporary link for further testing. Results thus far bear out initial reception results, but the temporary telephone link has not been satisfactory. CYTA is now trying to find a better quality line to improve monitorability at the bureau. In the interim, our remote receiver at the Pissouri CYTA site is still operational for medium wave coverage.

The election season has now ended in Cyprus with the elections in the Turkish zone resulting in "President" Denktash retaining office, but his party losing its parliamentary majority. Talks between the GOC and the Turkish side are expected to resume soon, but the election results did not seem to point the way for increased negotiating flexibility on either side.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. Effective 25 June, Nicosia Bureau started Thursday and Saturday coverage of the 0600 GMT Baghdad Persian to Iran casts, which were previously not covered.

2. Effective 25 June, Nicosia Bureau transferred to Gulf Bureau coverage of Moscow Persian to Iran 1100 and 1630 GMT casts previously covered by Nicosia on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

3. In an attempt to achieve more satisfactory coverage distribution in the area, Nicosia transferred to Gulf Bureau on 6 June AFP coverage of Arabian Peninsula countries, Iran and Iraq during the period 0600-1700 daily. Nicosia retains primary backstopping responsibilities and retains coverage 1700-2300 daily. Nicosia retains all its other AFP coverage.

B. Lateral/Special Services

1. In response to a telephone request from the U.S. Embassy in Athens, Nicosia filed several reports and editorials leading up to and following a 12 June march in Athens demonstrating against the U.S. bases in Greece.

2. During the month, the bureau provided three phonepatches of Tehran Domestic Service to the BBC. Total time was approximately 130 minutes.

3. Following the ROC elections, the chief of the Embassy Political section canceled with thanks the special services he had earlier requested under which he received copies of all bureau Cyprus newspaper and radio summaries.

III. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel at the bureau suffered through unusually severe water shortages early in the month as the flow of water to Nicosia from the Turkish side was cut off or restricted for much of the month. Water rationing continues, but the worst of the problem has apparently been resolved.

2. Border authorities on the Turkish side have become more restrictive in an attempt to have embassy personnel sign applications to cross the border. No bureau personnel were actually denied permission to cross, however, and discussions between the U.S. Charge d'Affaires and the Turkish side's Foreign Minister seem to have eased the problem for the moment.

3. Arabic monitor [redacted] and his wife had a baby boy, their STAT first, on 10 June.

4. Persian monitor [redacted] was converted to full FSN status on 14 June. STAT

5. Ops Special Assistant [redacted] and position classifier [redacted] STAT visited the bureau 20-24 June.

[redacted] STAT
Nicosia Bureau Chief

Attachment:

- A. Operations Report (including production and traffic report)