

2 March 1981  
MNC-1007

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

I. GENERAL

On 20 February the bureau received formal Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA) approval to use CYTA's Pissouri antenna site on the southern coast of Cyprus as a remote receiving site. The principal purposes of remoting radio signals to the bureau from the Pissouri site will be to provide reliable year-round coverage of Athens and better backup coverage of several Middle Eastern transmitters. Although the initial reception survey at the site had been a bit disappointing, the reception situation was substantially improved when an FBIS team visited the site in mid January and carried out a number of reception tests. The bureau is working toward activating the remoting operations in April.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. On 17 February at the Wire Service's request the bureau discontinued double FYI coverage of speeches by Egyptian President As-Sadat (running and flash substantive FYI's) which had been instituted in April 1979 in response to Headquarters and BBC feedback. The bureau will now file only a single series of substantive FYI's on As-Sadat speeches.

2. As Jordan Bureau's reception of Voice of Palestine radio remained unstable throughout the month, Nicosia took back coverage of the radio's 1100-1300 GMT cast 8-13 February and continues to backstop record all casts with occasional backstop processing.

3. With Headquarters concurrence the bureau discontinued its biweekly editorial report on Baghdad Persian programs. The bureau is now processing from the programs on merit.

4. As of 2 February, the bureau receives Turkish press summaries on Saturdays. We are now able to provide processing 6 days per week.

5. The bureau processed the Moscow Greek 1600 and 1900 GMT casts 14-17 February to cover the BBC Greek monitor's leave.

6. The bureau covered Jerusalem Hebrew casts for 2 hours on 20 February during a scheduled power outage at Tel Aviv Bureau.

7. On 11 February the bureau was alerted by Headquarters that Nicosia's copy had been garbling over the previous few weeks. Bureau engineers isolated the trouble to bureau interface equipment at the Embassy, and requests for refiles have subsequently abated.

#### B. Lateral/Special Services

On 2 February the Embassy in Cairo requested immediate texting of a 35-minute 29 January speech by Egyptian President as-Sadat marking the Green Revolution anniversary. The item was texted and filed within 5 hours.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Senior Editor [redacted] wife Bonnie, and children arrived PCS from Washington on 15 February. STAT

B. Senior Editor [redacted] and wife Peggy departed PCS for Washington on 27 February. STAT

C. Bureau Chief [redacted] and Chief Monitor [redacted] visited Brindisi, Italy, on TDY 1-4 February and 1-18 February respectively. STAT

D. Regional Engineer [redacted] visited Tel Aviv TDY starting 17 February. STAT

### IV. OTHER

Nicosia provided an unusually warm welcome to the family of new Senior Editor [redacted] when the stove of the Embassy guest house, in which the [redacted] were temporarily staying, caught fire due to an electrical short during the early morning of 26 February. The house quickly filled with smoke, and the fire was only kept from spreading said an Embassy notice, when "smoke detectors alerted the occupants who reacted quickly." In the excitement few remembered that just the day before the fire Bill had vowed to take any means necessary to kill the bugs who are the permanent occupants of the house. STAT  
STAT

[redacted]

Nicosia Bureau Chief STAT

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Operations (including Production and Traffic Reports)
- B. Engineering Report