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Security Information

TO : Chiefs, Field Bureaus  
FROM : Acting Chief, FBIS  
SUBJECT: Letter of Instruction

12 September 1953

GENERAL

1. Construction of the new West Coast Bureau station at Santa Rosa, California, proceeded satisfactorily. Foundations for the operations building were completed and reinforcing steel is being installed for the concrete floor. The auxiliary building walls are 75% complete. The antenna field was surveyed. Teletype communications via Army signals between Santa Rosa, Reseda, and Washington will commence in September.

2. The Okinawa Bureau accepted the first group of eight permanent houses from the contractor. The houses will not be ready for occupancy until electrical connections have been made in late September or early October. Venetian blinds were authorized in all 16 new houses.

3. The recent typhoon in Okinawa and earthquake in Cyprus left FBIS installations on these islands virtually unaffected.

OPERATIONS

1. Investigation of the Miigata area as an alternate site for the Hokkaido Bureau continued. It was established that gas wells in the antenna area will not constitute sources of reception interference. A power line in the area will be removed in early 1954 upon conclusion of the well drilling program. Further study of means of eliminating reception interference from another power line, which appears to be the sole remaining technical obstacle, is continuing. Appropriate instructions have been furnished Chief, Tokyo Bureau to conclude all investigations in order that an early decision may be made.

2. Two Russian-language military personnel of the First Cavalry Division have been assigned to the FBIS Hokkaido Bureau on TDY as monitors for the month of September as the result of a request to HQ, AFPE, through the Chief, Tokyo Bureau. The principal objective is to bolster the staff pending arrival of new monitor recruits.

3. The Chief, Okinawa Bureau, departed 18 August on a recruiting trip to Southeast Asia in search of Chinese, Burmese, Indonesian, Thai, and Russian monitor candidates for the Okinawa and Hokkaido Bureaus. Preliminary reports indicate good results to date.

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4. Technical observation of newly inaugurated VOA megawatt transmitters at Munich and Okinawa is being conducted by the Mediterranean and Okinawa Bureaus respectively, the former to assist the VOA in penetration of Soviet jamming and the latter primarily for protection of FBID interests in avoiding reception interference.

5. Six weeks of coordinated interception of the Kyrenia-London file by the East Coast Bureau with its new triple diversity receiving system have netted an average reduction in relay of the file by London Bureau amounting to nearly 10,000 groups per day. This entails an average reduction of one hour per message in transmission time. The latter greatly facilitated prompt reporting of the Iranian coup on 19 August when Radio Teheran broadcasts were for a considerable period the sole source of information on this subject.

6. A project for press clipping and analysis service at the German Bureau in support of DD(P) requirements was approved by the Project Review Committee on 2 September 1953. Arrangements are being made with Foreign Documents Division for transfer of a classified employee to Frankfurt to organize and initiate the service.

EDITORIAL COMMENTAll Bureaus

1. The Mediterranean Bureau's monitors and editors have been complimented on their efficient and professional handling of the Iranian royalist coup on 19 August. Kyrenia's first flash, based on the 1200 GMT Teheran broadcast announcing Royalist occupation of the broadcasting studios, reached Washington 20 minutes after broadcast via the East Coast Bureau's interception of the Nicosia-to-London circuit and cleared the "B" Wire at 1234 GMT. Kyrenia's second flash was on the "B" Wire at 1242.

For several hours FBIS was the only official source of information in the Agency (and apparently in Washington) on these developments, and a special roundup was furnished by the Agency to President Eisenhower based solely on FBIS material. FBIS was neck-in-neck with the Associated Press flashes out of London, which were apparently based on Kyrenia's monitoring of Teheran released by the BBC.

The Division has been complimented on this outstanding performance by the Acting Director of Central Intelligence, who has asked that his commendation be passed on to all individuals concerned; the Assistant Director for Operations; and the Head, BBC Monitoring Service.

2. Prompt field coverage of reaction to the Iranian coup facilitated the preparation by the Editorial Branch of a roundup of initial Western radio reaction to the 19 August events, which was incorporated with a chronology of the Iranian developments and a report prepared by the Radio Propaganda Branch on Moscow's treatment of those developments in a special paper requested from FBIS on 20 August.

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3. The Editorial Branch prepared a survey, as a contribution to an Agency report, of broadcast material appearing in the FBIS Daily Report which reflected foreign approbation or disapproval of the United States, its actions and policies. The survey covered a number of specified non-Communist countries in Western Europe, the Near and Middle East, the Far East, and Latin America.

#### Okinawa Bureau

1. Monitors and editors are reminded of the necessity to make a routine practice of checking Cabinet and diplomatic lists for the proper rendering of names. A case in point is an NCNA Numeral Code item filed on 6 August in which the name of the Burmese Minister of Agriculture and Forestry was given as Te Chin Chiao Tun, the obvious Chinese equivalent of Thakin Kyaw Dun. It is, of course, of equal importance that the Cabinet-card listing of a name not be used automatically without a careful check to make certain that the monitor actually heard the name listed on the card (it would have been a serious mishap for a garbled or partially unintelligible name to have been "restored", on the basis of the Cabinet list, to "Pak Hun Yong" when in fact it was "Lee Tong Kun" or someone acting in place of the purged Pak Hon Yong). While extreme caution in this respect must be exercised, it is nevertheless felt that fuller use can be made of the name lists insofar as they serve as proper guides.

#### London Bureau

1. The Briefs received from the Bureau have been welcome and greater use of the device, if feasible, will be appreciated. Short factual TASS and voice items -- excluding, of course, material of top priority -- lend themselves well to briefing, and their publication in the Daily Report can be expedited if they are received already prepared in that form.

2. Washington editors have been pleased to note the consistency and care with which the TASS PRAVDA contents have been handled since attention was called to their regular publication in the Daily Report.

#### Mediterranean Bureau

1. The Biographical Register, to which all of the personnel Briefs prepared by the Bureau are sent, has indicated that the items are used regularly and are of considerable value in building up the file of Soviet names.

#### SPECIAL REPORTS

1. The name of the Special Reports Branch has been officially changed to Radio Propaganda Branch.

2. In recent weeks the Soviet commentary lists from several Bureaus have not met the Monday deadline for the arrival of lists in Washington.

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probably because of an increased lag between filing time and receipt in Washington. Bureaus are requested to take the current communications lag into account in meeting this requirement.

3. It is suggested that perusal by editors of the new Radio Propaganda Reports issued by the Radio Propaganda Branch will assist them in the selection of copy and in formulating observations helpful to the Branch. The first issues have included a study prepared by the Okinawa Bureau on the purge in North Korea and a second study of popular disaffection in Czechoslovakia prepared at Caversham.

4. The Radio Propaganda Branch continued its contributions to National Intelligence Estimates with reports on Tropical Africa and Indonesia. Other reports prepared during the month were:

"Recent Changes in Communist Propaganda on Yugoslavia"

"The Soviet Nationalities Policy in the Purge of Beria"

"Propaganda Treatment of the Soviet H-Bomb Announcements"

"Satellite Propaganda on Collective Leadership"

PERSONNEL CHANGES1. New Employees:


Radio Operator

West Coast Bureau

50X1

2. Separations:


50X1

3. Reassignments:

Info Spec (Fgn Brdcst)  
East Coast BureauInfo Spec (Fgn Brdcst)  
Editorial Branch

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Teleg Typwr Opr  
West Coast BureauLibrarian  
West Coast BureauElectron Engineer  
East Coast BureauElectron Engineer  
Okinawa Bureau

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