

S-E-C-R-E-T

30 June 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. African Bureau Difficulties: African Bureau operations were severely hampered by a prolonged communications outage and the wave of violence which swept Kaduna and other towns in Northern Nigeria in late May. The disorders, sparked by the opposition of Northern Nigerians to the unitary government and unification of the civil service proclaimed by the military government in Lagos, were marked by uncontrolled mobs who stoned cars, burned buildings, destroyed the native markets, and killed many Ibos from the Eastern Region who lived and worked in the North. Americans were not molested but several African employees of the bureau had their cars damaged, fortunately without injury to the occupants. After consultation by phone with American officials in other parts of the Northern Region, the Consul at Kaduna imposed the Warning Phase of the Emergency Plan. Bureau personnel operated as best they could without communications, supplying the Consulate with significant monitored items and providing strong support to the Consul in handling the many problems arising from the disorders. The East Coast Bureau provided limited coverage of West Africa until the African Bureau file returned to normal. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Saigon Situation: Saigon Bureau operations were not affected by the demonstrations and rioting in Saigon during most of May, but restrictions on the activities of American personnel increased because of anti-American Buddhist demonstrations and the burning of American vehicles. U.S. officials imposed an 8:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. curfew on military and civilian personnel except for movements connected with official business. Local consumer interest in material from the "struggle" radios at Da Nang and Hue remained high though reception of these stations was generally poor because of weak signals and Vietnamese Government jamming. Outages on the allocated Vietnam-Washington circuit were up 25 percent in May, reversing the favorable trend of April. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Mediterranean Bureau Developments: With the concurrence of Ambassador Belcher, it was decided to return coverage of the UAR to the Mediterranean Bureau in September. Classified files evacuated to Headquarters in August 1964 have been returned to the bureau. The local situation was relatively quiet in May, though a strong Turkish Government protest to Cyprus over the appointment of two new Greek Cypriot ministers was followed by extensive sea and airborne landing exercises in southern Turkey in mid-May. Members of the Country Team were asked to help gather information needed by FBIS to assess the possible effect on the bureau's monitoring operation of the proposed commercial radio station in Cyprus. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Group 1

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Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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4. Research and Analysis Services: In connection with a briefing for Secretary Rusk, INR State consulted with FBIS analysts on implications for East-West relations and Vietnam of Kosygin's Supreme Soviet election speech. Among other Vietnam services, Soviet leaders' characterizations of the degree of Soviet support to the Vietnamese were culled for OCI, to place in perspective Brezhnev's Supreme Soviet election speech in which he mentioned "new steps" and "new efforts" in "speeding up the victory of the heroic Vietnamese people." At the request of the DD/I's office, a collation of Soviet comment on Soviet and U.S. space reconnaissance technology was prepared for use in a project being coordinated by ORR. Soviet statements on spy satellites and space reconnaissance were also provided to the Foreign Missile and Space Analysis Center.

Soviet references to aid in Mongolian military construction, Soviet-Mongolian mutual assistance, and "sober-minded figures in the West" were supplied to OCI, and Soviet statements over the past year calling for a conference on European security to the State Department. Material researched and supplied to other Agency components included Soviet military statements on surprise attack; a 1964 Chou En-lai statement concerning an "occupied nation's" right to recover its lost territories "by any means"; Chinese leaders' references to Rumania; and background on the CPSU's May Day 1965 slogans for the Arab countries. USIA requesters were supplied with Soviet reaction to the Meredith shooting and to Senator Robert Kennedy's South African trip.  
(CONFIDENTIAL)

5. Special Services: In addition to providing comprehensive coverage of the Dominican elections via the Daily Report and the Wire Service, FBIS from 25 May to 8 June directly relayed the entire Caribbean Bureau editorial file to a major Agency component charged with keeping the President informed of developments. At Headquarters request the Mediterranean Bureau supplied sample tapes of 10 languages for use by the Defense Language Institute. Seven other bureaus are participating in the project. The West Coast Bureau supplied tapes of Peking in Mandarin broadcasts to the Douglas Advanced Research Laboratory, Huntington, Calif., for use in a project entailing the physical analysis of Mandarin and development of voiceprint characteristics of Chinese speakers. London Bureau responded to a Headquarters request for full filing of material on the new Finnish coalition government, for use by consumers concerned with Secretary Rusk's visit to Finland in late May. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. Lateral Services: The Saigon Bureau began limiting its daily Press and Radio Highlights to about 20 pages to speed distribution. The bureau recently began supplying [redacted] with significant items for use in a daily early-morning briefing. During May the Tokyo Bureau transmitted 97 items totaling approximately 50,000 words to the USIS Press Section via the new FBIS-USIS circuit. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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7. Use of FBIS Materials: Consumers recently estimated that 80-90 percent of the material they receive on the CPR leadership struggle and ideological dispute is supplied by FBIS. To meet the continuing demand, page allocations in the Far East Daily Report for such material have been sharply increased. During the height of the conflict between the Buddhists and the South Vietnam Government, the U.S. Embassy in Saigon made constant reference in cables to FBIS material monitored from the Hue and Da Nang radios. The MACV Political Warfare Section utilized Saigon Bureau files in preparing a report on Viet Cong attitudes toward South Vietnamese elections. A cable from the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane noted that the fate of an American pilot held by the Pathet Lao came to light as a result of an FBIS-monitored item.

A State Department airgram to Moscow, Hong Kong, and diplomatic missions in Latin America called their attention to FBIS' Radio Propaganda Report on the impact of the Havana Tricontinental Conference, and requests were received to release the report to Venezuelan President Leoni and to the Uruguayan intelligence service.

Eighteen percent of the items appearing in the OCI Digest during May were based wholly or in part on FBIS reporting. (SECRET)

8. Guantanamo Crisis: The Key West and East Coast Bureaus provided round-the-clock coverage of Cuban broadcasts, including two strong statements by Fidel Castro charging the United States with aggressive intentions, during the crisis which followed the 21 May shooting incident at Guantanamo Naval Base. Key West Bureau alerted the COMKWESTFOR, Admiral Christopher, within minutes after Castro's statements on the evening of 27 May and continued to keep the admiral's command center and other key offices fully informed throughout the night. Admiral Christopher later personally congratulated FBIS for its "very excellent work." (CONFIDENTIAL)

9. Czechoslovak Party Congress: At FBIS' suggestion, the BBC detailed two Czech monitors to the Austrian Bureau to help cover the Czechoslovak Communist Party Congress which began 31 May. The arrangement proved to be worthwhile as many important speeches and developments of the congress were either inaudible or poorly received in England, and the several days delay in processing which mailing of recordings from Vienna would have entailed was avoided. The Austrian Bureau rescheduled editorial and teletype shifts to provide extended service during the congress. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

10. Supplements and Reports: A 48-page Rabotnichesko Delo account of Premier Todor Zhivkov's 26 April report to the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee plenum on "Managing the National Economy" was published as a Daily Report supplement 17 May. The text of First Secretary Antonin Novotny's report to the 13th Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, as printed in the Bratislava Pravda, was also published as a Daily Report supplement 9 June. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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11. Chinese Monitor Recruiting: Okinawa Bureau's operations officer visited Taipei 16-20 May to test qualified applicants for three additional Chinese monitor slots recently authorized for the bureau. Two of six applicants who met FBIS requirements will be offered immediate employment. During May the Tokyo Bureau requested security clearances for three Mandarin monitors to replace two monitors who are resigning and to fill an additional authorized slot. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

12. Reorganization Studies: Within the context of overall DDI planning and programing, two studies affecting the future organization and functions of FBIS are now being made by working groups consisting of representatives of the various Agency components concerned. One of these groups, concerned with the feasibility of incorporating propaganda analysis functions in the Office of Current Intelligence, has completed its investigative work and is now preparing its recommendations. The second group, concerned with the feasibility of combining foreign radio and document exploitation in overseas installations, is in the process of preparing individual position papers for group study and coordination in a final working group recommendation. The deadline for completion of the work of the first group is 1 September, and the second group 1 December. [redacted] are representing FBIS in the propaganda analysis study and [redacted] are representing FBIS in the study on combining radio and document exploitation. (SECRET)

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13. Briefings and Visits: Mr. William Hutton, BBC Finnish-English monitor, toured the East Coast Bureau and was briefed by Headquarters officers during a recent private visit to Washington. Visitors to the Mediterranean Bureau during May included Marine Corps Major Conroy, for the semiannual inspection of the Marine guard detachment, and two officers from the Sixth Fleet, who visited the bureau in connection with sea evacuation planning. Miss Mary Franklin, newly assigned First Secretary (Information) at the British Embassy, visited the Saigon Bureau in late May. (CONFIDENTIAL)

14. Training: The chief of the West Coast Bureau recently attended the Senior Management Seminar on the Managerial Grid while on TDY in Washington, and the chief of the East Coast Bureau completed an executive development course the first week of May. (CONFIDENTIAL)

#### FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

15. Coverage Developments: Reliable reception of a new Dominican Government transmitter permitted the East Coast Bureau to assume coverage of the Dominican domestic service on 22 June, making it unnecessary to assign additional monitors on TDY to the Caribbean Bureau. On 26 May the Hokkaido Bureau assumed responsibility for covering a TASS domestic press circuit after reception of the transmission at the Austrian Bureau deteriorated. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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16. Broadcasting Developments: The USSR expanded Russian-language broadcasts on its international service by 73 hours a week during May, raising the total hours of such broadcasts to 201 a week. Moscow's Second Program, "Mayak," now broadcasts continuously for more than 17 hours a day on a minimum of two and a maximum of 26 international service transmitters. Moscow's Fifth Program, specifically designed for Russian-speaking foreign audiences, now broadcasts 77 hours weekly. Full coverage is provided by the BBC. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

17. Headquarters AUTODIN: Western Union officials have advised that the Fort Detrick DCA AUTODIN center will be activated during the latter part of August 1966, thus making it possible for FBIS to enter the AUTODIN network. Appropriate equipment will be installed in the FBIS Communications Section prior to Detrick's AUTODIN activation. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

ADMINISTRATION

18. Emergency Addressees: Personnel are reminded that the emergency addressee designated in Form 61, Current Residence and Dependency Report, Section 4, must reside in the United States and not with the employee overseas. (CONFIDENTIAL)

19. Savings Bond Authorization: Personnel preparing Form 2254, U.S. Savings Bond Authorization for Purchase and Request for Change, should be sure that zip code and social security numbers are entered in the appropriate blocks of the form. Bonds cannot be issued unless both numbers are provided. (UNCLASSIFIED)

20. Disposal of Equipment: When requesting authority to dispose of equipment, bureaus should supply the following information:

- a. Type of equipment
- b. Number of units to be disposed of
- c. Model and serial number of each unit (if not available, so indicate)
- d. Proposed method of disposal. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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EDITORIAL

1. Interpretive FYI's: To prevent possible misinterpretation by lateral consumers, interpretive FYI's containing editors' or monitors' observations on the program content and beaming of communist broadcasts should be filed to Headquarters only, flagged "COPY TO RPD."

2. Marginal Material: Bureau editors are reminded that they can help alleviate the Editorial Division's summertime problems of manpower shortage and publishing backlog through judicious selection and the discarding of marginal material.

PERSONNEL

3. New Employees

Assignment

Clerk Typist, Caribbean Bureau

Editor, East Coast Bureau

Teletypist, Caribbean Bureau

Driver, Caribbean Bureau

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4. Reassignments

From

To

Teletype Supervisor  
Editorial Division

Teletype Supervisor  
Tokyo Bureau

Editor  
London Bureau

Editor, Wire Service Br.,  
Editorial Division

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5. Separations

From

Info Control Clerk, Administrative Staff

Analyst, Radio Propaganda Division

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6. TDY in Headquarters

- Orientation and temporary Daily Report editor while en route from London Bureau to West Coast Bureau

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- Briefing and return to Caribbean Bureau

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Acting Director  
Foreign Broadcast Information Service