

S-E-C-R-E-T

25 May 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Saigon Situation: The Saigon Bureau continued to be fully occupied with special coverage of "struggle force" broadcasts from Da Nang and Hue and expanded coverage of Saigon radio. As the political turmoil in South Vietnam continued the bureau's evening operations were complicated by early curfews, with the U.S. Embassy unable for several weeks to obtain valid curfew passes for local employees. Two monitors en route home in an official Embassy car were arrested by police and detained for an hour. Despite obstacles to its operation, the bureau maintained its rapid and comprehensive reportage of developments to Washington as well as to major U.S. components in Saigon. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Mediterranean Bureau Developments: Scattered incidents continued throughout Cyprus, including two explosions in Kyrenia 12 April which caused minor property damage but no injuries. There were no new developments in the question of the American radio stations' status. The problem of encroachment on the bureau by the Karavas bypass was alleviated by a GOC decision to postpone work on the new road due to lack of funds. In a further development, Archbishop Makarios informed the Mayor of Kyrenia that the GOC had decided on a course for the bypass that would not encroach upon the FBIS operation. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Special Services: The White House Situation Room recently received within hours requested information about a Cuban documentary entitled "LBJ," as well as biographic data on Santiago Alvarez, an official of the Cuban Institute of Art and Motion Picture Industry. Senator Mansfield's office requested and received a compilation of all broadcast references to the Senator's proposals for a peace conference on Vietnam. Among the many special requests for tape recordings was a Defense Language Institute requirement for hundreds of hours of taped broadcast material to be used in expanding its language-training program. In preparation for the 1 June Dominican elections, arrangements were made to directly wirefile the Caribbean Bureau's product to one Agency component and to provide others with advance distribution of all statements by main candidates Juan Bosch and Joaquin Balaguer. In response to an urgent request by the American Embassy, Tokyo, the Tokyo Bureau supplied texts of all major Soviet leaders' speeches at the 23d CPSU Congress, some of which were refiled from Headquarters. (CONFIDENTIAL)

GROUP 1

Excluded from Automatic down-
grading and declassification

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4. Research and Analysis Services: Agency components recently were supplied with information on Peking's use of photographic and other "evidence" in past propaganda exploitation of US-CPR air incidents, as background for more recent Chinese charges about the shooting down of a CPR plane by American planes on 12 May; Chinese Communist references during 1966 to the banning of nuclear weapons and pledges that the CPR will not be the first to use nuclear weapons; background on Peking's treatment of its first nuclear tests; and Soviet leaders' references to East-West trade over the past two years. USIA was provided with information on Soviet treatment of De Gaulle's letter to President Johnson regarding NATO, and reaction to Vice President Humphrey's March speeches on China. Special requests for research and analysis on the Vietnam situation continued to be received almost daily. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. Lateral Services: At the Liaison Staff's request, the West Coast Bureau supplied tape recordings of Moscow Quechua and Peking Spanish broadcasts for use by a consumer in Washington. Two military components in Thailand, the USAF Office of Special Investigation and the J-2 section, U.S. Military Assistance Command, have been added as recipients of Okinawa-monitored communist source material on U.S. military activities in Thailand and the Indochina theater of war. The Okinawa Bureau recently provided "Voice of the Thai People" material for a study prepared by the 7th Psychological Operations Group's Propaganda Branch; information on Mandarin broadcasts, for CSG, Okinawa; and tape recordings of Indonesian leaders' speeches, requested by the FBIS Liaison Staff. In April two new consumers were added to those receiving the product of the Tokyo Bureau's TV film monitoring operation, bringing the total number of recipients to six.

At Headquarters request, the London Bureau sent a special file of materials from Cairo radio's "Enemies of God" program to the American Embassies in Cairo, Beirut, and Taiz and to the Consulate General in Dhahran. Upon request, the Mediterranean Bureau supplied technical information on Peyk-e Iran and National Voice of Iran broadcasts to the American Embassy in Teheran, presumably for use in its monitoring operation. Seventy-two percent of the 43 subscribers to the German Bureau's Weekly Report on the East German Press responded to a recent survey, with 30 percent terming the report "of considerable value," 54 percent "of value," and 13 percent "of slight value." Two recipients canceled their subscriptions. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. Use of FBIS Materials: The Department of State's Office of Inter-American Security Affairs reported that tape recordings of Moscow broadcasts in Portuguese supplied by London Bureau had been instrumental in the ouster of a Soviet diplomat from Brazil. A Tokyo Bureau FYI on an Akahata report that a Japanese Communist Party delegation had viewed the equipment of a downed U.S. Navy pilot in North Vietnam triggered an intensive Navy investigation to determine the status of the pilot, who had been listed as dead. The State

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Department sent to all Latin American missions excerpts from Brezhnev's speech to the 23d CPSU Congress seeming to support the theme of Soviet, Cuban, and other Communist intervention in Latin American countries. Cables from the U.S. Embassy in Teheran reported extensively on FBIS-monitored Radio Peyk-e Iran retorts to questions raised about this radio in the Iranian parliament. Material monitored by the Saigon Bureau from Da Nang and Hue "struggle force" broadcasts was used extensively by the American Embassy in its daily cabled roundup of the Vietnamese situation and by other U.S. components in Saigon.

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

7. Supplements and Reports: The Editorial Division recently issued for limited distribution a Special Memorandum containing radio and press references to a recent New York Times series on the Agency. A 12 May supplement to the USSR/East Europe Daily Report contains the Bucharest radio version of Rumanian Communist Party Secretary Ceausescu's speech to a meeting marking the party's 45th anniversary. The speech, with its strong overtones of Rumanian nationalism, evinced considerable interest in the intelligence community. A 2 May Far East Daily Report supplement contains the VNA text of a report delivered to the DRV National Assembly by Premier Pham Van Dong on 16 April. Two recent Radio Propaganda Reports examine the impact of the Havana Tri-continental Conference on the Latin American revolutionary left and on Cuban tactics in Latin America. (CONFIDENTIAL)

8. Hokkaido Housing: On 25 April the Hokkaido Bureau was advised by the Far East District Engineers, Camp Zama, that instructions had been received to start planning for the construction of 10 company grade officers quarters and a bureau chief's house for FBIS at Chitose III. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

9. Panama Bureau Privileges: On 19 April the memorandum of understanding between the Panama Bureau and the U.S. Army Forces Southern Command was renewed and military base privileges for local employees formalized. (CONFIDENTIAL)

10. Briefings and Visits: A panel was constituted for the FBIS briefing of OTR's Intelligence Review Course, which is designed primarily to bring overseas returnees and long-service employees up to date. OTR also arranged for a group of Career Trainees to visit FBIS Headquarters. Individual briefings were given to officers from 5th Air Force, Fuchu, Japan, and PACAF. In coordination with the German Bureau, arrangements were made for a West German delegation to visit the Caribbean Bureau and be briefed on the Wire Grid Lens antenna. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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11. Field Inspection Trip: The Director, FBIS, and the Chief, Engineering Staff, visited the Mediterranean, Austrian, German, and London Bureaus during a field inspection trip 21 April to 13 May. The Chief, Engineering Staff, also visited the African Bureau 15-21 April. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

12. Training: The Chief, Editorial Division, attended a one-day introductory seminar on automatic data processing (ADP) and the use of computers at IBM's Washington Education Center on 13 May. The Deputy Chief, Editorial Division, attended a one-week course on the Managerial Grid System during the first week of May. (CONFIDENTIAL)

FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

13. African Bureau Communications: The State Department agreed to an FBIS proposal that the African Bureau and the American Embassy share a 12-hour, half-speed circuit between Lagos and London. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

14. Cruising-Operations Messages: The experimental removal of certain operational and broadcast information from administrative communications control is designed to lighten staff processing and communications center workloads. The change applies only to broadcast information formerly sent in administrative message format. Broadcast information which traditionally has been filed editorially (e.g. "MOS ONLY" or "COPY TO MOS") should continue to be so filed. This distinction is necessary to insure correct distribution in Headquarters. Care should be taken to address cruising reports to BBC rather than LD unless London Bureau has a clear interest, in which case both addresses would normally be used. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

15. Exotic Language Monitoring: After approximately a year of monitoring Quechua and Creole at the Panama Bureau on a part-time contract basis, two additional non-Staff positions permitting full-time monitoring of these languages were recently approved. Efforts to recruit a Lingala monitor for African Bureau have been unsuccessful so far. (CONFIDENTIAL)

16. IBM Equipment: The BBC Monitoring Service is now using IBM recording and transcribing equipment compatible with the new IBM equipment presently arriving at FBIS overseas field bureaus. After bureaus have their new equipment installed, recordings forwarded to the London Bureau for processing should be recorded on the new IBM equipment. The East Coast, West Coast, and Key West Bureaus will not be using IBM equipment for a number of years, until their Dictaphone magnetic belt recording equipment becomes obsolete. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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50X1

ADMINISTRATION

18. Service Anniversary Letters: The Director, FBIS, will continue the 10-year service letters without special requests from the bureaus. Twenty-year anniversary letters will also be written by the Director, but in this case the responsibility for informing Headquarters of the completion of 20 years' aggregate FBIS service rests with the bureaus. Headquarters does not routinely write commendatory letters to local and foreign national employees completing 15 years' service with FBIS. OFFICIAL USE ONLY

19. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances have been disseminated: (UNCLASSIFIED)

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EDITORIAL

1. Spelling Guidance: The GPO Style Manual and Webster's New International Dictionary are accepted authorities for the preferred spelling of words.

PERSONNEL

2. New Employee

[Redacted]

Assignment

Teletypist, East Coast Bureau

50X1

3. Reassignments

[Redacted]

From

To

Adm Officer
Administrative Staff

Adm Officer
Okinawa Bureau

50X1

Editor
Editorial Division

Editor
London Bureau

Editor
Austrian Bureau

Editor, Wire Service
Branch, Editorial Div.

Editor
Editorial Division

Editor
East Coast Bureau

Editor
Editorial Division

Editor
London Bureau

4. Separation

[Redacted]

From

Editor, Editorial Division

50X1

5. TDY in Headquarters

[Redacted]

(West Coast Bureau) - training course.

50X1

50X1

[Redacted]

ROGER G. SEELY
Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service