

Ltr of Info R
file
M.N.

S-E-C-R-E-T

26 December 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Additional Service to New Administration: By request, the New York office of President-elect Richard Nixon is being supplied with selected items from broadcast and press monitoring by wire. Previously, special delivery of Daily Reports and PAD reports had been started on a regular basis.

[Redacted]

50X1

2. CPR Coverage: On 10 December the Sinkiang regional radio announced that it would begin on the 16th to rebroadcast Radio Peking's First Program "on a full-time basis," which led to fears that local programing might be sharply curtailed in the wake of cutbacks in receipts of provincial newspapers and result in a considerable intelligence loss. However, Sinkiang and other provincial-level radios merely extended their hours of transmission in order to carry additional relays of Peking's First Program. There appears to be no important cutback in local programing. All provincial-level radios are currently broadcasting local newscasts on a regular basis except for Lhasa (Tibet) and Tientsin (provincial voice of Hopeh). Lhasa did broadcast a local editorial on 13 December, its first local origination since early November.

[Redacted]

50X1

In connection with the cutback in CPR press sources, FBIS is planning to survey possible monitoring sites in South Korea to determine their potential for monitoring North China transmitters which are either difficult or impossible to monitor from existing FBIS sites.

[Redacted]

50X1

With the arrival at the Hokkaido Bureau of a third-country national cruising monitor who has just completed intensive training at the Okinawa Bureau, a cruising program has been launched to improve North China regional coverage, which has been quite limited in scope since its inception at Chitose.

[Redacted]

50X1

FBIS representatives attended a meeting of Organization components concerned with the consequences of the cutoff of CPR newspapers. It was generally agreed that it was still too early to tell just what the cutoff means in terms of quantitative and qualitative loss or to determine what steps could be taken to make up any losses resulting from the cutback.

[Redacted]

50X1

Although the cutoff of the provincial press has deprived Asia Division of the regular receipt of about 25 newspaper titles, the division continues to receive two Peking papers, two daily news releases, and the

S-E-C-R-E-T

Group 1

Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968

Party theoretical journal, Red Flag, on a regular and current basis. In addition the Liberation Army Daily, the Yunnan Daily, and Agricultural Machinery Technology monthly are received fairly regularly, but not on a current basis. [redacted]

50X1

3. Mali Coup: The first indication of trouble that led to the coup in Mali on 19 November was a Radio Accra item on the closure of Bamako airport. It and the subsequent Radio Bamako communique announcing the military takeover and overthrow of Modibo Keita and his regime were filed by the African Bureau operational immediate, the letter item clearing the bureau wire 25 minutes after broadcast time. [redacted]

50X1

4. Supreme Soviet, Franc Crisis: During the month FBIS Wire consumers were especially interested in the French monetary crisis and the USSR Supreme Soviet sessions. The Caribbean and London bureaus provided fast and complete coverage of both developments.

5. U.S.-Czech Trade: A Czechoslovakia/Hungary Branch Slovak press item published in the 31 October Eastern Europe Daily Report served as the basis for deferring action on approval of an export license for sale of US aircraft components to the Czechoslovak manufacturer of L-410 aircraft. The U.S. Government had been assured by the Czechs that the aircraft would be used only for civilian purposes, but the article reviewed the military potential of and the Czechoslovak Air Force's interest in the L-410. Confronted with the article by the U.S. Ambassador in Prague, an official of the Czech import firm restated the intent to use the L-410 only for civilian purposes within Czechoslovakia and offered to sign an additional agreement that no L-410 aircraft containing U.S. equipment would be sold to the USSR or other East European countries. The Department of State decision on the matter is pending. [redacted]

50X1

6. USSR Time-Zone Revisions: A recent USSR broadcast indicated a possible revision of time zones in the USSR. New divisions may follow the frontiers of republics, krays, and oblasts. All bureaus and Area Divisions are requested to be alert for any information regarding new time zones or USSR time changes. [redacted]

50X1

7. Emergency Communications: Installations of the necessary switching equipment to permit allocated circuits from the Tokyo, Caribbean, Panama, and London Bureaus to be switched from FBIS Headquarters in Arlington to the FBIS emergency relocation site has begun. Each bureau will be advised before its circuit is tested. [redacted]

50X1

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968

OPERATIONS

8. Meo Monitoring: A Meo linguist was brought into the Bangkok Bureau for 4 days during November to check Meo broadcasts from Radio Pathet Lao, the Radio of the Patriotic Neutralist Forces, and Hanoi. It was found that there are many dialects of this language, each designated by colors: "white, red, black, blue, and striped." Unfortunately few linguists understand all dialects, but it was confirmed that both the Pathet Lao and the PNF radios use the same dialect (white) and repeat in Meo their regular Laotian broadcasts. Radio Hanoi broadcasts in the "black" dialect could not be understood. Another Meo linguist is scheduled to work at the bureau for 1 month to make a more definitive sampling and to identify a new service in Meo recently begun by the Voice of the Thai people. [REDACTED]

50X1

9. Broadcasting Developments: North Vietnam introduced five new 30-minute programs in November--two in English for U.S. Servicemen in South Vietnam and the others in Vietnamese for followers of the "Thieu-Ky Puppet Administration." The programs are broadcast on two transmitters new to the Hanoi services, making a total of 21 shortwave transmitters compared with the 11 used only 5 months ago. This includes at least two used by Radio Liberation, which recently has been identified more closely with Hanoi through transmitter interchange. The Okinawa Bureau has added the new English-language programs to coverage. [REDACTED]

50X1

Radio Moscow on 10 December increased its international broadcasting in Rumanian by 2 hours daily, and by rearranging its transmitting facilities now presents a daily 5-hour continuous evening service in this language. On the same day, Moscow also introduced two new 30-minute programs in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia. By further rearrangements for the service to Yugoslavia, a continuous broadcast in Serbo-Croatian, Slovene, and Macedonian is presented for 3 1/2 hours at prime evening listening time. The BBC monitors these services. [REDACTED]

50X1

The USSR's international service output now totals 1,897 hours weekly. It uses a total of 85 shortwave transmitters at its peak period of operation and broadcasts in 80 languages. [REDACTED]

50X1

"Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan," a clandestine broadcast controlled by the leader of dissident Iraqi Kurds, Barzani, was heard during the last week of November for the first time since 1966. After 5 days, the transmissions disappeared and were not heard again until 14 December. The Mediterranean Bureau is covering this service. [REDACTED]

50X1

Radio Tirana announced in late November that the Albanian international service programs in Czech had been reduced to 28 hours weekly. Programs in Czech were introduced by Radio Tirana in 1966 and reached a

- 3 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968

peak of more than 45 hours a week just after the invasion of Czechoslovakia in August. [redacted]

50X1

A cruising search for a Cuban clandestine transmitter, reported by an Organization component, produced negative results. The transmitter allegedly spoke for a Major Acosta, who, more recently, has been reported to be in a Havana hospital as a result of an automobile accident. [redacted]

50X1

10. Coverage of Supreme Soviet Reports: Special arrangements were made by the London PMU to provide rapid processing from the USSR press of the two main reports to the Supreme Soviet session on 10 December. As a result, the Daily Report was able to publish full text of the 12,000-word Baybakov economic plan report on 12 December, the same day PMU received the source paper. The 8,000-word Garbuzov budget report was published the following day. [redacted]

50X1

11. EAD, Contractual Facility Support: To alleviate a translation burden which otherwise would have devolved on Austrian Bureau during the Polish party congress in November, EAD undertook to select and coordinate processing of a large volume of press materials on the congress for publication in Daily Report supplements. Some 60,000 words were translated, edited, and typed on mats by the Contractual Facility in a period of 3 weeks. [redacted]

50X1

12. Monitorial Manpower:

Saigon: The bureau was able to resume limited coverage of Rhade and Jarai broadcasts with the hiring of a part-time monitor. A part-time Vietnamese/English monitor left on 1 December for induction into the Vietnamese armed forces.

Bangkok: A contract Burmese monitor entered on duty at the beginning of the month and is making good progress. A bureau advertisement for a Thai-Lao-English linguist drew almost 40 responses and testing is underway.

Caribbean: The first two contract Spanish-language monitors hired in the Continental United States reported for duty. Two locally recruited Spanish-language monitors were terminated. The bureau now has a total of 14 monitors and monitor-trainees on duty. [redacted]

50X1

SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

13. Lateral Services: At L&R's suggestion, the State Department Mali desk requested that FBIS file all items on the Mali political situation to the U.S. Embassy in Bamako. A Bamako telegram to the Department on 3 December asked that FBIS be informed of the Embassy's appreciation for "the rapid dissemination of news items regarding the Mali coup," adding that "the timely reports on key stories were extremely useful." [redacted]

50X1

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968

In response to a request from the British High Commission, the African Bureau supplied full texts of Kaduna Radio's "Spotlight" commentaries for the period 8-11 November instead of the usual excerpts. The U.S. Embassy and the Kaduna Consulate have asked the Bureau to compile on a continuing basis a list of all "Spotlight" commentaries along with a brief resume of each.

14. Special Services [redacted] A copy of the Truong Chinh Report "Let Us Be Grateful to Karl Marx and Follow the Path Traced by Him," published as a Daily Report Supplement on 2 October, was delivered by special courier to an Organization representative at the Pentagon in response to an urgent request. Several other copies of this supplement were delivered to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and various Pentagon components on the same day in response to special requests. 50X1

An Organization component expressed appreciation for a package of materials compiled by MOS on Soviet, CPR, and Cuban external broadcasting, which was passed to Congressman Harrison of Wyoming.

In response to a special request by an Organization component, bureaus were asked to flag to L&R all processed references to the forthcoming book "The Fall of Khrushchev."

The wife of an Air Force colonel missing in action since January 1968 spent several hours in Asia Division looking for pictures of her husband in the Lao papers. She had received a letter from a friend in Thailand which stated that someone had seen her husband's photo in a Lao paper. Unfortunately, she did not find the photo. [redacted] 50X1

FBIS support for Organization components included the following. 50X1

[redacted]

Asia Division's Political Branch helped identify the complete structure of the Mongolian Government and Party organization.

Asia Division's Near East & North Africa Branch translated a 29-page English document entitled "The Basic Functions and Structure of a Counterintelligence Service" into Arabic. The reverse translation of this highly technical handbook took more than 4 weeks and resulted in 67 Arabic pages.

A project calling for the "study, analysis of, and recommendations concerning" some two dozen issues of the Sudanese newspapers Anba As-Sudan and An-Nas "in order to increase their readability and circulation as well as methods of gaining ads and economizing on format" was completed by Asia Division's Near East & North Africa Branch.

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968

The Physical Sciences Branch of the USSR Division translated a 200-page manual on a Soviet radio receiver and the Policial/Sociological/Military Branch translated a 130-page transcript of the interrogation of a KGB defector. 50X1

A sequel to PAD Special Report RS.88 of April 1968 assembling Pyongyang statements on Korean unification and the South Korean "struggle" was prepared at ONE request in support of a forthcoming estimate. [redacted]

PAD special services included a check of Hanoi Key Themes card file entries covering the past 2 years for the State Department in support of a White House request for references to "counterrevolutionary crimes" or insurrectionist elements in North Vietnam; culls for Organization components of Soviet comment on U.S. bases in the Mediterranean and of Soviet attacks on the European Union, EEC, and NATO; and a statistical comparison, for State Department INR, of Soviet comment on the latest NATO meeting with comment on NATO meetings in 1957, 1966, and 1967.

15. Use of FBIS Materials [redacted] FBIS materials were mentioned in a number of State Department telegrams during the month. 50X1

A high-precedence telegram from the Paris Embassy containing the text of the DRV Government statement on the bombing halt, read by Xuan Thuy at a 2 November press conference, noted a variation in the wording of the statement in the two versions carried by VNA, both of which were monitored by FBIS.

Saigon Embassy telegrams said that the FBIS-monitored text of President Thieu's address to the National Assembly on 2 November contained significant variations from the "official translation" received from the President's office. Saigon Bureau noted clear evidence from the specific words used that the "official" version was not prepared from the broadcast version. Other telegrams from the Saigon Embassy quoted liberally from FBIS-monitored Hanoi and Liberation Radio reaction to President Johnson's 31 October speech, Ho Chi Minh's November appeal to the Vietnamese people on the occasion of the bombing halt, President Thieu's 4 November address, the DRV Foreign Ministry 5 November protest against U.S. reconnaissance flights, the NFLSV-Vietnam Alliance joint communique of 5 November, Hanoi Radio's comments on the U.S. elections, the DRV Foreign Ministry 16 November statement on representation at the Paris talks, and President Thieu's 27 November press conference.

A Vientiane Embassy telegram noted that a Pathet Lao Radio commentary on the bombing halt monitored by Bangkok Bureau was "the first reference by the Pathet Lao to the halt we have seen." Another Vientiane cable quoted liberally from the FBIS-monitored Pathet Lao broadcast of the new NLHX political program.

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968

The Amman Embassy cited a number of Cairo Voice of Fatah broadcasts monitored by FBIS in several of its situation reports on the demonstrations and other developments in Jordan in early November. A Department cable to the U.S. diplomatic representative in Cairo noted that his summary of Nasir's 6 November message to King Husayn contained variations from the version reported by FBIS. He responded that the FBIS version was "substantially the same as in the local media" and apologized for his "elliptical drafting" of Nasir's remarks in the first telegram. Other Amman Embassy cables quoted liberally from FBIS-monitored Voice of Fatah broadcasts of the communiques by the Palestine Revolutionaries Front and an interview with Fatah spokesman Arafat. The Embassy also cited the MENA account of the arrest of a U.S. military attache in the Al-Wahdat area, reported by FBIS.

A high-precedence telegram from the Bamako Embassy cited a 21 November communique by the "Military Committee for Liberation," broadcast by Radio Mali and monitored by FBIS Kaduna, as "the first authoritative indication" of the targets of the coup, which "confirms our earlier impressions." Other Bamako Embassy cables containing situation reports on Mali political developments mentioned FBIS-monitored broadcasts. Cables from the Lagos Embassy cited developments in the Nigerian war reported by Radio Biafra, Radio Kinshasa, and Northern Nigeria Radio, all monitored by FBIS.

A high-precedence message from the Department to the U.S. Mission to NATO and the Belgrade Embassy cited an FBIS-monitored report of Radio Tirana's reaction to Under Secretary of State Katzenbach's visit to Yugoslavia.

The Key West Bureau supplied continuous support to the State Department Coordinator of Cuban Affairs, Miami, in connection with the hijacking of a National Air Lines plane that landed at Key West for refueling on its way to Havana. The Coordinator noted that the information he received was most helpful and would be used in deciding when to send a plane to pick up the passengers.

16. PAD Automation Project

50X1

Automation of PAD's Hanoi Key Themes file and backdating of this file to the period of the August 1964 Tonkin Gulf incidents are continuing, in response to a May request to the Director of Central Intelligence from the Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State. The Director of INR asked for speediest possible computerization of this file, which covers Hanoi statements in some 60 categories, to facilitate its use

- 7 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968

in support of the U.S. negotiators in Paris. PAD expects to complete the backdating by February 1969. Concurrently, the back entries as well as a current input of some 400 entries a month are being retyped to prepare a magnetic tape for automation. When the automated system is in full operation, consumers will be able to request computer printouts of entries in any category or to receive a copy of the magnetic tape of the entire file for use in their own computers.

High-level interest has been expressed in similar automation of the older and more compendious Soviet and Communist China War Themes files, now together containing some 47,000 entries and increasing, respectively, at the rate of 100 and 60 entries a month. The Soviet file covers some 65 categories, the China file 45. Transfer of the back entries in these files to magnetic tape will begin next year and should be completed by mid-1970.

If computerization of the existing files proves successful, other thematic files covering additional topics and sources may be developed for automatic programing. Examples include North Korean statements on unification and South Korean insurgency, Chinese domestic propaganda themes, and Soviet statements on aspects of such chronic trouble spots as the Middle East.

FBI'S PUBLICATIONS AND ISSUANCES

17. Supplements: Nine supplements to the Eastern Europe Daily Report were published during the month: "Material on Fifth PZPR Congress 11-16 November 1968, Volume I--Main Report by First Secretary Gomulka," dated 20 November, 63 pages; same title, "Volume II--Speeches at 11-13 November 1968 Sessions," dated 6 December, 74 pages; "Volume III--Speeches at 14, 15 November 1968 Sessions; Membership of Congress Commissions," dated 11 December, 73 pages; "Volume IV--Resolutions," dated 17 December, 58 pages; "Materials on Czechoslovak Political Developments, Volume IX," dated 21 November, 88 pages; same title, Volume X, dated 27 November, 80 pages; Volume XI, dated 13 December, 90 pages; "Materials on Polish Political Developments," dated 25 November, 75 pages; and "Materials on East European Political and Economic Developments," dated 4 December, 88 pages.

Of the 689 pages in these nine supplements, nearly 90 percent was typed by the Contractual Facility, and 149 pages represented translations by the Facility.

50X1

18. Broadcasting Stations of the World: The final proofs of the 22d edition of "Broadcasting Stations of the World" were submitted by Printing Services Division for MOS approval on 12 December after initial difficulties in the new process were corrected. The use of the LINOTRON process has reduced the number of pages by half. The Government Printing

- 8 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968

Office is printing this edition in-house, which will materially reduce further delays in publication. [redacted]

50X1

19. Special Items on FBIS Wire: PAD prepared items for Wire dissemination on CFR provincial propaganda behavior and on a 9 December Kiangsi Daily editorial which apparently presages a major change in the structure of rural communes. MOS contributed an item to the FBIS Wire Service on 12 December concerning Radio Moscow's increased broadcasts to Rumania and Czechoslovakia. [redacted]

50X1

MISCELLANEOUS

20. Visits and Briefings: Eleven FBIS employees were briefed at the National Security Agency during November. Visitors from DIA and FTD/Wright Patterson AFB were briefed on FBIS organization and activities during the month. [redacted]

50X1

Visitors to FBIS field installations included: To Okinawa Bureau-- Mr. John W. Coffey, ADD/S; Dr. John Tietjen, D/MS, accompanied by [redacted] of CSG; [redacted] area communications chief; a three-man team from the Taiwan Defense Command, headed by Maj. Eugene A. Bendel; a group of officers from 7th Psy Ops Group, headed by Capt. Nathan F. Cliatt; Miss Anne Campbell, vice consul; Mr. Donald Mauro of JSPC, Okinawa; and Mr. Joseph Talbo, Stratcom maintenance coordinator To Panama Bureau--Mr. William Pryce and Mr. Richard Bauer, newly assigned to the Political Section of the American Embassy, Panama. To Mediterranean Bureau-- [redacted] OMS; Col. Hossein Vahdatehagh, Lt. Muhammad Graffari, and Sgt. Esmail Khorsandi of the Iranian Monitoring Service. To Bangkok Bureau--two senior officers from an NSA installation in Thailand; Father Harold Thiel, a Catholic missionary to Meo tribesmen, who will help in recruiting a Meo linguist. To London Bureau--Commander Johnson and Lieutenant Commander Franco of the CINCUSNAVEUR staff, London.

50X1

50X1

50X1

ADMINISTRATION

21. Wage Schedules: All requests for or changes in local wage schedules should be addressed to the Chief, Administrative Staff. [redacted]

22. Request for Approval of Itinerary and Issuance of Travel Orders: Please include your telephone number in the Home Leave Address block of this form. [redacted]

50X1

23. Regulator Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: [redacted]

50X1

- 9 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968



50X1

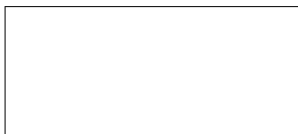
24. Personnel Changes (22 November - 13 December 1968)



50X1

New Employees

Assignment



Clerk Typist, Publications Division

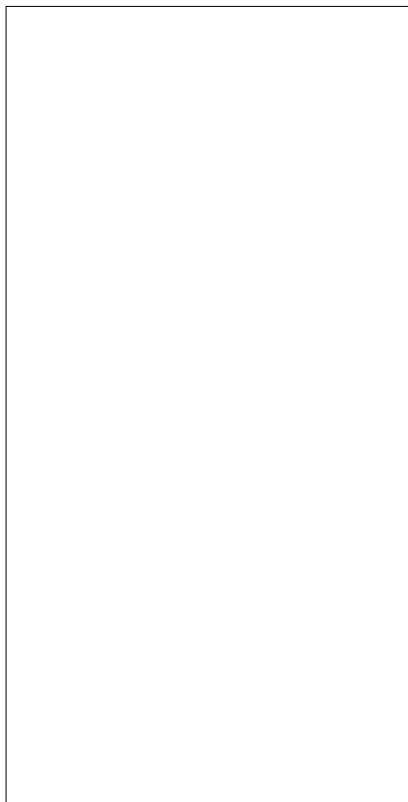
50X1

Editor, Publications Division

Reassignments

From

To



Area Officer

Area Officer
USSR Division

50X1

50X1

Operations Officer
Okinawa Bureau

Liaison & Requirements Off.
Executive & Planning Staff

Teletype Supervisor
Wire Services Staff

Teletype Supervisor
Okinawa Bureau

Admin Officer
London Bureau

Admin Officer
Administrative Staff

Admin Assistant
Saigon Bureau

Projects Assistant
Field Operations Staff

Editor
Austrian Bureau

Editor
Publications Division

Editor
Okinawa Bureau

Editor
Publications Division

Area Officer
Asia Division

Area Officer
Europe/Africa/LA Division

Retirements

From



Radio Operator, West Coast Bureau

50X1

Resignations



Clerk, Publications Division

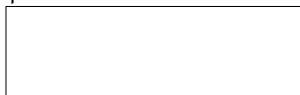
50X1

Clerk Typist, Publications Division

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968

25. Training (22 November - 13 December 1968)



50X1

Internal

50X1

Course/Dates

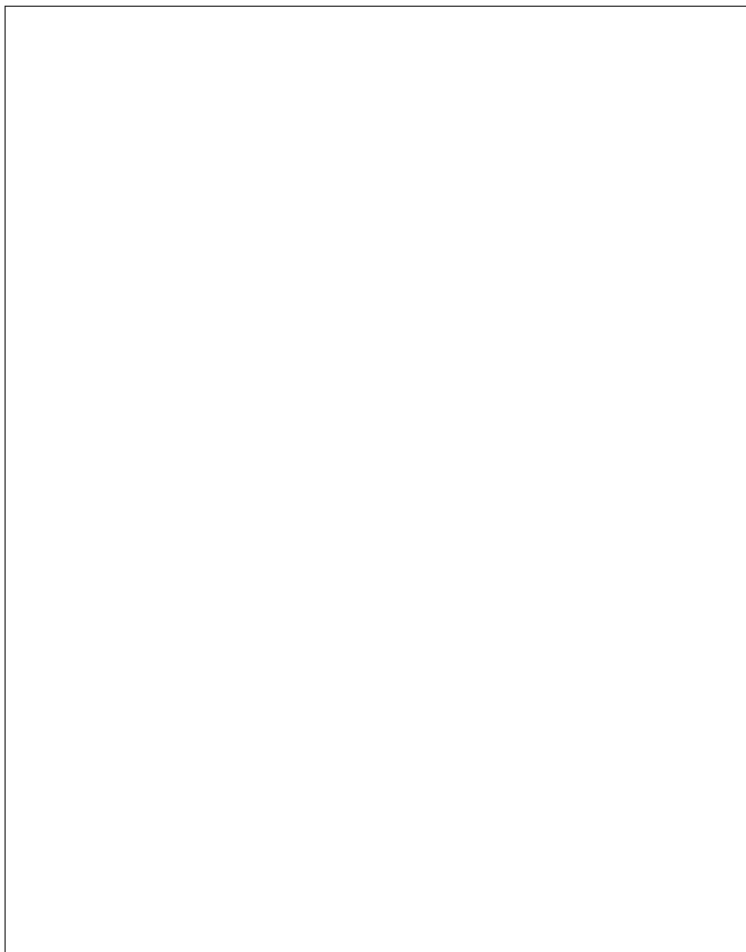
Employee/Assignment

Geography of Communist China
(2 - 20 December 1968)

Intelligence Review
(2 - 13 December 1968)

Management
(2 - 6 December 1968)

Advanced Management (Planning)

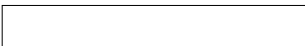


External (Full Time)

Courses/Dates

Employee/Assignment

Cambodian
(21 October - 13 December 1968)



Asia Division'

50X1

Contracting by Formal
Advertising (9 - 13 December 68)



West Coast Bureau

50X1

Government Contract Adminis-
tration (2 - 6 December 1968)



West Coast Bureau

50X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 December 1968

External (Full time) (contd)

Course/Dates

Employee/Assignment

Defense Petroleum Indoctrination

Digital Subscriber Terminal
Equipment Maintenance
(18 November - 6 December 1968)



50X1

ROGER G. SEELY
Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

S-E-C-R-E-T