

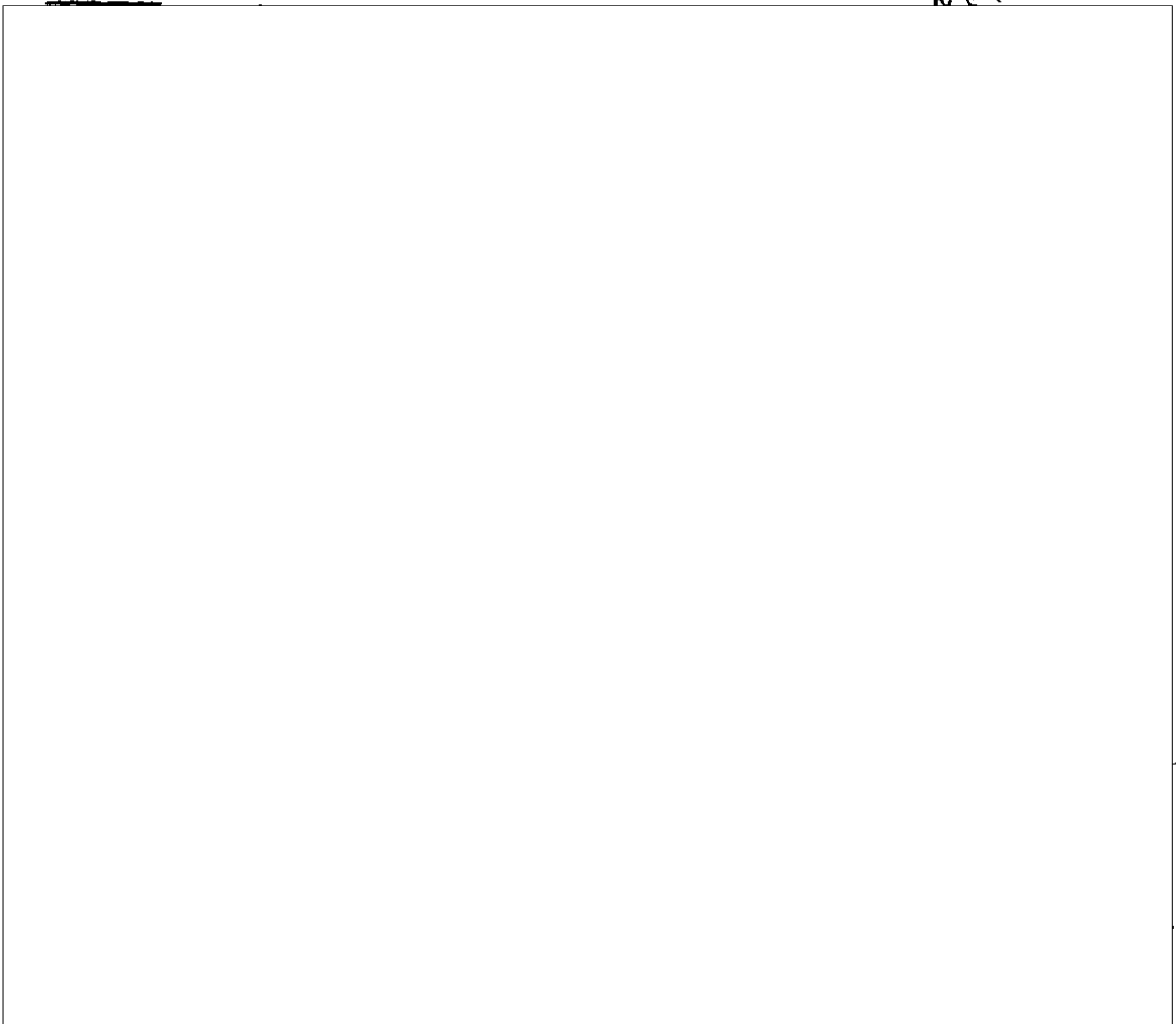
S E C R E T

*What about BBC coordination
28 October 1968
Committee meeting 18 Oct?*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel
SUBJECT : Letter of Information

*D/FBIS visits to
been discussed
Next etc of info*

GENERAL



50X1

S E C R E T Group 1
Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

2. Saigon Situation: Enemy activity inside Saigon during the past month was generally limited to terrorist incidents involving grenade attacks, planting of explosive charges, and civilian assassinations. On 29 September, a 122 mm. rocket landed in the district in which the bureau chief resides. One Vietnamese was found stabbed to death in the rear seat of a car parked outside the walls of the bureau chief's home.

[REDACTED] 50X1

3. Cyprus Developments: The U.N. force in Cyprus will be cut 25 percent, to about half its 1964 peak of 6,500 men. The Canadians will no longer have a contingent in Kyrenia. The total force will amount to some 3,400.

[REDACTED] 50X1

The Mediterranean Bureau was informed by the British High Commission that the Foreign Office has rejected a plan to use the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area (SBA) as a Bureau operational fallback site. The reason given for the decision was that it would be a violation of existing treaties with the Government of Cyprus to use the SBA for other than "purely military purposes." The Bureau has submitted several alternate suggestions to Headquarters for further fallback planning.

[REDACTED] 50X1

4. Panama Coup: After only 11 days in office, Panamanian President Arias was ousted by a military coup late at night on 11 October. The Panama Bureau picked up indications of the coup within minutes when various studios announced before they left the air that they were under attack and that a "civilian and military chief" had been appointed for Chiriqui Province. The bureau, on a reduced staff because of a flu epidemic, did a fine job of crisis coverage, in which the Caribbean Bureau aided by temporarily taking over some of Panama's press service coverage. It was not necessary to implement standby plans to send a Caribbean Bureau watch officer to Panama on TDY.

[REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] 50X1

5. Czechoslovak Developments: Czechoslovak radio and press operations normalized to the extent that coverage of that country became essentially the same as just prior to the 21 August invasion by Warsaw Pact Forces. Bureaus participating in Czech coverage during the crisis were asked to submit a critique of the handling of the crisis by FBIS.

[REDACTED] 50X1

6. African Communications: Sporadic outages continued to plague African Bureau communications. A major step was taken toward improving use of an alternate circuit when the Bureau succeeded in having a line installed between the Kaduna P&T room and the American Consulate. This will eliminate the carrying of tape to the Consulate during outages and will allow an immediate switchover to the altroute.

[REDACTED] 50X1

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

7. Okinawa AUTODIN: Okinawa Bureau's Mode V AUTODIN circuit was activated 30 September. Two categories of routine material are being filed experimentally over this facility. Transit times of routine messages to Headquarters has ranged between 15 minutes and 3 hours.

[REDACTED]

50X1

8. Contractual Facilities' Production: During FY-1968, the contract facilities paid [REDACTED] for the translation of 66.3 million words. These totals were below those for the previous year, when FBIS paid [REDACTED] for the translation of 72.6 million words.

50X1

50X1

9. Commendations: Responding to a request for evaluation of the vastly increased amount of Polish political material being handled by the domestic contractual facility since the student disturbances in Poland last March, an Organization component stated that the material provided "needed background and a vital context for other available information." In a letter to the Director, FBIS, another Organization component expressed appreciation to FBIS for "its timely and extensive media coverage of the Ninth World Youth Festival" in Bulgaria and praised FBIS support as "an invaluable contribution." [REDACTED]

50X1

10. London-Paris Communications: A contract was signed on 30 September between the London Bureau and GPO External Communications covering the full-duplex circuit between Caversham and Paris serving U.S. representatives at the Paris Peace talks. The long-term agreement with 14-day cancellation rights brought a saving of nearly 50 percent of the charges originally estimated for this service. [REDACTED]

50X1

50X1

Xerox copies of mats which had been typed and raw teletype copy of that portion of the Truong Chinh report remaining to be typed were pouched to the U.S. Delegation at the Paris talks on 30 September to provide the delegation with an advance copy of the report. [REDACTED]

50X1

SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

11. Use of FBIS Material [REDACTED] State Department telegrams continued to make wide use of FBIS-monitored reportage on the Czech situation. From 12 September through 10 October, 59 broadcast items were cited in the Department's Czech Task Force Situation Reports.

50X1

- 3 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

The U.S. Embassy in Vientiane noted that an FBIS-monitored Pathet Lao News Agency item describing "the National Political Union Conference meeting of NLHX and patriotic neutralist forces" 8-12 September contains "several items of significance in assessing the development of NLHX posture." The cable said "all elements of the broadcast together form the clearest public indication so far of NLHX political interpretation of the present situation in Laos." In a subsequent cable, the Embassy reported that talks between the Ambassador and Souvanna Phouma revealed that "the information (in the broadcast) was all quite new to Souvanna and that he hasn't yet figured out exactly how to react to it."

A telegram from the Department to the Saigon Embassy requested investigation of the shelling of a Cambodian border post reported by FBIS.

Citing an FBIS-monitored Cairo MENA report of a Kuwait weekly article which said that the Saudi government had sent a note to Arab capitals rejecting peaceful solutions to the Middle East problem, a State Department cable instructed embassies in the Middle East to ascertain the authenticity of the article and to reiterate the U.S. Government's opposition to extremism. In two subsequent cables, the Department alerted Middle East posts to FBIS-monitored reports of preparations for a meeting of Fedayeen leaders to discuss unified action against Israel.

Following a denial by the Jordanian Chief of Staff that the Fatah organization was using a rocket-launching vehicle in terrorist attacks, the Amman Embassy informed him of an FBIS-monitored Voice of Fatah broadcast reporting that such a vehicle had been used to shell Beisan.

A State Department cable to the Tunis Embassy cited a report monitored from Damascus Radio by FBIS alleging that "U.S. intelligence had word of an assassination plot" against Bourguiba, noting that the Department "knows of no basis for such a report."

Cables from the U.S. Embassy in Lagos summarized FBIS-monitored Biafra Radio reports of an Ojukwu message to various heads of state on alleged genocide and the role of the observer team, and of remarks by the Biafran Commissioner for Information on the same topic. A Kaduna Consulate telegram quoted an FBIS report on the unexplained behavior of the Biafra radio on a new frequency.

- 4 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

Referring to an alleged "Chicom promise to assist Rumania if it is attacked," the U.S. Embassy in Moscow noted that an FBIS report of Chou en-Lai's remarks at a Rumanian National Day reception "struck us as something other, and less, than a promise to assist."

Bangkok Bureau reported that a landline was activated during the month between the MACTHAI relay center and the Embassy. The Embassy now prints the entire Bangkok Bureau file, and makes virtually all of the bureau's lateral distribution in the Bangkok area.

The Austrian Bureau provided the U.S. Ambassador in Vienna with texts of sharp Moscow attacks on Austria for his use in dealings with Austrian Government officials, and in general tried to help the Embassy staff with texts of key bloc materials relating to Austria.

Saigon Bureau coverage of the formation of the Danang Alliance, the Liberation Radio warning to evacuate central Saigon, and other topics were the subject of several Embassy cables to the State Department. The Department's "Vietnam Weekly Highlights" cable, which is sent to all European, East Asian, and Pacific Diplomatic Posts, continued to quote, almost verbatim, the bureau's "Communist Propaganda" contribution to Saigon Embassy's "Mission Weekly." These contributions have been praised by Embassy political officers.

The Weekly Surveyor issues of 23 September and 30 September contained analytical comment citing FBIS Daily Report items on international cooperation in astronomical and geophysical research, French nuclear test series, and a new Soviet Institute of Experimental Meteorology.

An Organization component published a report on the Soviet Guideline MOD 3 Surface-to-Air Missile which was based on initial information and a photograph of the warhead extracted by Balkan Branch/EAD personnel from two Yugoslav publications. The warhead can be used against ships, according to the sources.

50X1

12. Press and Document Exploitation: The Political/Sociological Branch of USSR Division completed the priority translation of a 76-page Soviet manual on the organization and employment of forces and equipment for military reconnaissance. The translation was requested by an Organization component.

50X1

- 5 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

During the month, there was a considerable increase in the volume of CPR provincial newspapers received through the AIRLO in Hong Kong (some 674 issues) with a slight improvement in the time-lag picture. This is the main Chinese provincial press source, and maximum Chinese-language effort is being put into monitoring them by FBIS. [redacted]

50X1

In response to a priority request, a 300-page Russian book "World Socialist Systems and Anti-Communism," was translated and published in just over 2 weeks by the D.C. contractual facility. The facility also translated and published a 950-page monograph "Officers Handbook of Soviet Legislation." The San Francisco contractual facility received "warm thanks" and appreciation from an organization component for its rush translation of a 74-page French scientific document. [redacted]

50X1

13. Propaganda Analysis: State Department INR called PAD for an answer to a telephone query from Secretary Rusk in New York, at the U.N. General Assembly, on any precedents in Soviet media for Foreign Minister Gromyko's 3 October reference in the General Assembly to Vietnam negotiations "in Paris or somewhere else." PAD advised the Department that the reference was unprecedented since the start of the Paris talks and did not appear in TASS' account of Gromyko's speech. The same information was provided earlier to an Organization component. [redacted]

50X1

PAD Special Report RS. 90 of 20 September, a 124-page compilation of Soviet radio and press statements in 11 thematic categories relating to aspects of the Middle East crisis since the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war has been selected by an Organization component for courtesy distribution to some 30 members of the academic community. The report was prepared by PAD in response to a general interest, expressed in continuing requests for information from State Department and Organization analysts. The component felt that it would also be "of considerable interest both to Soviet and to Middle East scholars." [redacted]

50X1

Wire items prepared by PAD for dissemination on the FBIS Wire examined the CPSU slogans issued for the October Revolution anniversary, discussed a sharpened Soviet propaganda attack on Yugoslavia, and provided background on an NCNA report on the situation in the CPR's Taching oilfield. [redacted]

50X1

14. Requirements Survey: Copies of the "FBIS Checklist for Economic Reporting on the USSR and East European Satellites" have been sent to field bureaus and Headquarters components for evaluation and comment. The "Checklist," prepared by the Information Requirements Staff with the support of FBIS, is part of a continuing effort by FBIS to develop an up-to-date, coordinated listing of economic collection requirements that can be used by all FBIS components collecting

- 6 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

information on the Soviet Union and East Europe. 50X1
50X1PUBLICATIONS

15. Supplements: Two supplements to the Eastern Europe Daily Report were published during the month: "Materials on Czechoslovak Political Developments, Vol. VII, dated 11 October 1968, 52 pages; and "Materials on Polish Political Developments," dated 15 October 1968, 75 pages. The text of a report by Truong Chinh given at a Hanoi Conference of cadres commemorating the anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx entitled "Let Us Be Grateful to Karl Marx and Follow the Path Traced by Him" was published as a 54-page Asia & Pacific Daily Report supplement on 2 October 1968.

50X1

OPERATIONS

16. Czech Coverage Normalization: With the concurrence of the Chief, Austrian Bureau, BBC editor-monitor Henry Fox returned to England from Vienna. The pre-crisis arrangement whereby the Austrian Bureau covered daytime Prague Domestic Service newscasts which were unmonitorable at Caversham in exchange for BBC translating 14,000 words a week of Czech press materials was reinstated.

17. BBC Overnight Shift: The BBC on 23 September discontinued its overnight English monitoring shift. As previously arranged with Headquarters, the 0100 GMT Moscow in English to North America broadcast will be monitored live and all materials except flash processed on a delayed basis.

18. Broadcast Developments: "Oggi in Italia," a broadcast of the Italian Communist Party, returned to the air on a single Rumanian medium-wave transmitter after having been off the air completely at the height of the Czechoslovak crisis. Broadcasts had recently emanated from Rumanian and Polish transmitters, although in previous years Hungarian transmitters were also used. Present transmissions are being recorded at the Mediterranean Bureau and airmailed to BBC London for processing. Radio Peking introduced three new languages in its international service -- Czechoslovak, Polish, and Rumanian. BBC sampled each of these efforts as well as the output of the "Radio Station of the Polish Army in Czechoslovakia" in Polish, Czech, and Slovak. The clandestine communist broadcaster "Radio

- 7 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

of the Patriotic Neutralist Forces" introduced programs in Meo, an Indo-Chinese hill tribe language. This station had previously broadcast in the Lao language only. FBIS has no capability in Meo, but is attempting to recruit a Meo monitor for the Bangkok Bureau.

50X1

19. CPR Coverage: The Okinawa Bureau has reduced the frequency of its complete scan of Chinese provincial transmitters to once a month, rather than once a week. The recent relative stability of broadcast operations of these transmitters has made the weekly scan unnecessary.

50X1

20. Key West Storm: The Key West Bureau suspended operations for 13 hours owing to the approach of tropical storm Gladys on 16-17 October. The main thrust of the storm bypassed Key West and there was no damage to the bureau.

50X1

21. Monitors: Contract Burmese-English monitor [redacted] entered on duty at Bangkok Bureau in mid-September and is making satisfactory progress. Bangkok Bureau's second Vietnamese-French monitor, a contract employee, has made such rapid progress that assumption of additional Vietnamese coverage became possible.

50X1

Saigon Bureau monitor [redacted] who had been called back into military service, was released by the ARVN to FBIS for one year's detached service. This is the first time the ARVN has agreed to such detached service by FBIS employees called into military service.

50X1

50X1

The American Embassy, Seoul, agreed to test five Korean monitor applicants for Okinawa Bureau. The two applicants tested in Tokyo remain under active consideration. Korean monitor-trainee [redacted] hired locally, reported for duty 30 September. Final clearance for the sole promising Vietnamese recruit is being speeded with Headquarters' assistance.

50X1

50X1

Mediterranean Bureau Arabic monitor-trainees [redacted] and [redacted] began regular shift work on 15 and 22 September respectively.

50X1

50X1

50X1

- 8 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

22. Mexican Coverage: Panama Bureau has assumed exclusive coverage of Mexico. While voice material remained sketchy due to poor reception and traditionally uninformative newscasts, the state news agency, INFORMEX, and a circuit carrying PRENSA LATINA correspondent's dispatches proved to be productive sources for coverage of the serious student riots which erupted in the Mexican capital in September. [redacted]

50X1

23. Saigon Press Coverage: Due to the increased number of newspapers now being published in Saigon, the Saigon Bureau was asked to take on the coverage of an additional four newspapers for the daily "Saigon Press Analysis." They are Saigon Moi, Dan Viet, Hy Vong, and Than Dan. The Bureau now covers nine newspapers, the Embassy does nine, and JUSPAO covers another 10. A further innovation was the request that bureau editors underline the more significant portions of our daily contribution to draw reader attention to them. [redacted]

50X1

24. Bureau Hours of Operation: In order to answer priority queries from Headquarters in the late afternoon, the London PMU has arranged for one Russian linguist and a teletypist to work until 1630 GMT under the supervision of a staff employee. Normal operating hours for linguists remain 0700-1530. [redacted]

50X1

MISCELLANEOUS

25. Visits and Briefings: FBIS Headquarters personnel were briefed at the White House Situation Room, OCI Operations Center, and the local Associated Press bureau. Several visitors from DIA were briefed on FBIS organization and activities during the month.

Visitors to field bureaus included: Charles Eberhart, chief of VOA's East Asia Bureau, Homer Johnson, deputy manager of VOA's megawatt transmitter in Thailand, and Kenneth Forrest, State Department Regional Communications Officer, to Bangkok Bureau; two Organization representatives to Key West Bureau; Greek Army Colonel Diamantis, Major Niotis, and Major Polymeogoulous to West Coast Bureau; Lt. Cdr. R.O. Moberly, U.S. Navy Combat Task Force 72, to Okinawa Bureau; Col. John B. Pratt, U.S. Forces Japan, J-2 office, to Hokkaido Bureau; Lt. Col. Vernon Jestic, Chief of the Southern Command's Indications Center, to Panama Bureau; [redacted]

50X1

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

The Key West Bureau Chief was briefed on the operations of the Joint Air Reconnaissance Coordination Center, Key West, by the JARCC Operations Officer, Maj. Lloyd Warn.

The Tokyo Bureau Chief attended the Japan Intelligence Seminar at Fuchu Air Station. The objective of the seminar was to brief Lt. Gen. Thomas K. McGehee, the new Commander, U.S. Forces Japan, on the various U.S. intelligence activities in Japan. The Bureau Chief in a brief presentation discussed the main global activities of FBIS, with some emphasis on FBIS activities in Japan.

[Redacted]

50X1

ADMINISTRATION

26. Deferred Home Leave: [Redacted] provides for deferred home leave in unusual circumstances. Unusual circumstances are interpreted as operational necessity or a unique personal problem related to the PCS. Personal convenience is not sufficient justification. Bureau Chiefs, therefore, are requested to justify each request for deferred home leave. Deferred home leave must be approved by the Chief, Operations Group, prior to issuance of the travel order.

[Redacted]

50X1

50X1

27. Pen and Ink Changes to FBIS Notices, Regulations:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

50X1

50X1

[Large Redacted Area]

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

[Redacted]

50X1

28. Training: [Redacted]

50X1

a. [Redacted] Chief, West Coast Bureau - "Management of Organizations", a Civil Service Commission Executive Seminar at Berkeley, California, 7-18 October.

50X1

b. [Redacted] Chief, USSR & Eastern Europe Branch - Basic Survey of the USSR, 30 September - 11 October 1968.

50X1

29. Awards: [Redacted]

50X1

[Redacted] - Intelligence Medal of Merit in recognition of excellent service.

50X1

[Redacted] - Certificate of Distinction in recognition of excellent service.

50X1

Okinawa Bureau - Citation for Meritorious Service in recognition of the Bureau's superior performance and the unusual skill and devotion to duty of Bureau personnel in covering the events of the "Cultural Revolution" in Mainland China in the 1966-1968 period.

30. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: [Redacted]

50X1

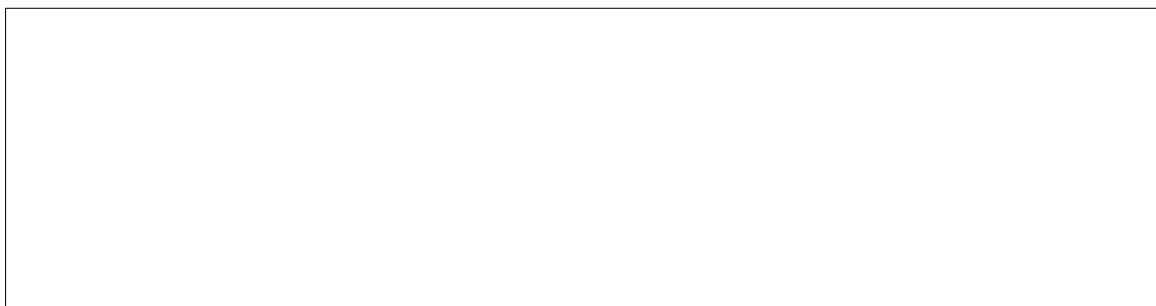
[Large Redacted Area]

S E C R E T

50X1

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968



50X1

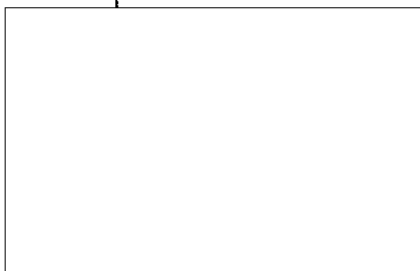
31. Personnel Changes:



50X1

New Employees

Assignment



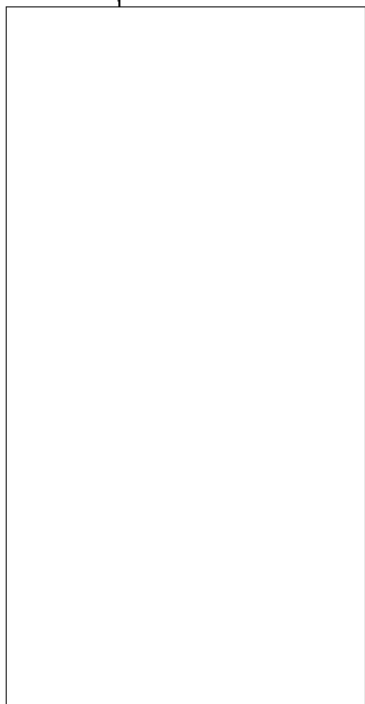
Clerk, Publications Division
Area Officer, Asia Division
Editor, Publications Division
Clerk Typist, Publications Division

50X1

Reassignments

From

To



Senior Editor Hokkaido Bureau	Senior Editor Publications Division
Deputy Chief Production Group	Acting Chief Operations Group
Radio Operator West Coast Bureau	Radio Operator Caribbean Bureau
Watch Officer Hokkaido Bureau	Watch Officer Tokyo Bureau
Chief Mediterranean Bureau	Chief Exec. & Planning Staff
Editor Wire Services Staff	Editor Okinawa Bureau
Editor Publications Division	Editor Wire Services Staff

50X1

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 28 October 1968

<u>Reassignments</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>TO</u>	
	Editor Panama Bureau	Editor Publications Division	50X1
	Chief Okinawa Bureau	Deputy Chief Production Group	
	Deputy Chief Publications Division	Special Assistant Production Group	
	Acting Chief Exec. & Planning Staff	Deputy Chief Exec. & Planning Staff	
	Senior Editor Okinawa Bureau	Senior Editor Caribbean Bureau	
	Secretary Publications Division	Admin. Assistant Saigon Bureau	
	Editor Wire Services Staff	Editor Austrian Bureau	
	Deputy Chief Exec. & Planning Staff	Deputy Chief Publications Division	
	Acting Chief Engineer West Coast Bureau	Chief Engineer West Coast Bureau	

ResignationsFrom

Clerk Typist, Publications Division

50X1

RetirementsFrom

Editor, Publications Division (Disability)

Chief Engineer, West Coast Bureau

50X1

Acting Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

- 13 -
S E C R E T

50X1