

*Ltr of Info file*

S E C R E T

27 August 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel

SUBJECT : Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Czechoslovak Crisis: The performance of FBIS field bureaus and Headquarters components involved in coverage of the occupation of Czechoslovakia and the events preceding it was exceptional. Judging by the amount of FBIS material cited in the State Department Operations Center situation reports, FBIS made an outstanding contribution in keeping U.S. Government consumers advised on current developments in this highly explosive situation.

The speed and resourcefulness of the Austrian, London, and German bureaus in coordinating coverage of the invasion enabled the Wire Service to provide consumers with a complete and up-to-the-minute picture of fastbreaking developments. The provision of running program summaries of items on various Czechoslovak transmitters which operated after the occupation proved to be an invaluable device for keeping abreast of a vast volume of highly perishable information. The fact that these transmitters were forced into clandestine operations soon after the occupation greatly complicated coverage problems. The extensive timely coverage of these broadcasts and those of the Soviet occupation forces, who quickly established their own radio facilities utilizing Czechoslovak transmitters, bears witness to the highly efficient maximum effort made by the European bureaus and the BBC.

During the period 21-25 August, the first four publishing days after the Soviet occupation, the six area volumes of the Daily Report carried some 293,000 words (523 pages) of reportage and comment on the crisis. The Czechoslovakia section alone accounted for 106,000 words (190 pages). A full 88-page issue of the Eastern Europe Daily Report devoted exclusively to the crisis was published on Sunday, 25 August. As of 26 August the report had carried 70 pages of detailed chronological reportage on the behavior and program content of the numerous "free" Czechoslovak transmitters monitored by the London and Austrian bureaus.

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Group I.

Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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At the request of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Soviet propaganda charges of U.S. involvement in the Czechoslovak situation through 25 July were assembled by the Propaganda Analysis Division (PAD) on a crash basis for the personal use of Secretary Rusk. The Director of Intelligence and Research expressed appreciation for this service in a letter to the DDI. In response to general interest in the Soviet propaganda effort to implicate the United States in the crisis, an article in the 1 August Survey traced this effort from its inception on 19 July, with charges of a CIA-Pentagon "plot" and discovery of a "cache" of U.S.-made arms in Czechoslovakia, to its abrupt cessation after five days. FYI's from the London PMU and the Austrian and German bureaus provided information for an analysis item prepared by PAD for the FBIS Wire on 6 August pinpointing the suspension of direct attacks on Czechoslovakia in the radio and central daily press of the USSR and its four hard-core allies during the first days of the month. [redacted]

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2. Saigon Situation: The Saigon Bureau sustained a relatively quiet month with enemy activity inside the city limited to a few assassinations and terrorist bombings. Large caches of ammunition and supplies were uncovered within striking distance of Saigon, however, and rumors of enemy buildups and imminent attacks were rampant. The Saigon curfew was further relaxed early in the month and is now in effect 2200-0600 daily. [redacted]

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3. Paris Peace Talks: The U.S. Vietnam Mission in Paris continued to rely on FBIS-supplied information by way of the direct line from the London Bureau. The weekly speech of the DRV delegation's leader is now regularly monitored by the Okinawa Bureau from Paris radio-teletype transmissions to Hanoi and supplied to the U.S. delegation.

Propaganda Analysis Division support of the U.S. Vietnam delegation in Paris included a cable reviewing Hanoi propaganda on internal security, as background for the announcement that the DRV Ministry of Public Security had recently held a conference on the building of "politically strong" villages. The Division also responded to a State Department INR request for background and interpretation of a Moscow radio commentary which suggested that the July lull in South Vietnam fighting was politically significant and that the President should have taken it as a cue to apply his San Antonio formula and stop the bombing. The PAD assessment and background were passed on to Secretary Rusk and incorporated in a State Department cable to Ambassador Harriman in Paris. [redacted]

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SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

4. Propaganda Analysis: Soviet propaganda treatment of the 11-19 July Warsaw Pact naval maneuvers in the North Atlantic Ocean and the Baltic, Barents, North, and Norwegian seas was reviewed in the Propaganda Analysis Division 1 August Survey in response to an expression of interest from the Office of Strategic Research. Chinese Communist broadcasts to Japan from May through July that attempted to proselytize the Chinese revolution were researched for an Organization component. In a service to the academic community, material in PAD files on Peking and Moscow relations with Havana were assembled for former Ambassador Kohler, now head of the Institute of Latin American affairs at the University of Miami, for use in compiling a record of the Cuban revolution. [redacted]

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5. Press and Document Exploitation: The Asia Division completed four lengthy translations for Organization components. These included two Arabic translations totaling 169 English pages, one Persian translation of 56 English pages, and summarization of and comment on a 95-page Arab booklet. The Latin America Branch of the Europe, Africa, Latin America Division translated a working paper circulated to Latin American bishops who will be represented at the Latin American Bishops who will be represented at the Latin American Bishops Conference to open in Colombia on 26 August following the Pope's visit to the Eucharistic Congress in Bogota. The original text had been leaked to the leftist Montevideo weekly MARCHA. Advance copies were requested by the White House and two Organization components prior to its publication by the contractual facility. [redacted]

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6. Special Services: A copy of the "new NFLSV program," published in an FBIS supplement dated 5 September 1967, was supplied General Maxwell Taylor's office. The White House also requested a back copy of the translation of a Hoc Tap editorial on party theory carried by Hanoi Domestic Service in October 1966. The White House Motion Picture Unit, Naval Photographic Center, was provided a tape of a 3 May 1966 Hanoi International Service broadcast concerning a DRV government statement on the Paris talks, supplied by Okinawa Bureau.

Translation of a 3,000 word article in the 11 August 1968 issue of Der Stern was completed within 4 hours by the East Europe/Africa/Latin America Division in response to a request by a high Organization official. An Organization component expressed great appreciation for FBIS coverage of the World Youth Festival in Sofia and our direct wirefiling of these items to the London Embassy. [redacted]

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7. Use of FBIS Material: FBIS material was cited in a significant number of State Department telegrams and airgrams during the month. A State Department telegram noted that the FBIS excerpts of Sihanouk's 8 August press conference "show his statements more important and interesting than sketchy wire service reports had indicated" and refers to seven related FBIS items. Another telegram cited an item filed by Bangkok Bureau as evidence of Sihanouk's efforts to crack down on communists in his government. A telegram from the Bangkok Embassy to the Paris talks delegation cites an FBIS "18 July report from Hanoi" on the expressions of "deep gratitude to the DRV government..." made by three U.S. pilots for its "humane lenient policy."

The U.S. Embassy in Vientiane called attention to London Bureau's report of a message to Polish leaders from Neo Lao Hak Xat leaders, translated from TRYBUNA LUDU, as "one of the very few public mentions of the Lao People's Party," and attached particular significance to the "first appearance of the title of the Lao government used in the message."

Zambian President Kaunda's "unexpected" ban of the Opposition United Party, reported in an FBIS-monitored broadcast, was the subject of a telegram from the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka. A telegram from the Lagos Embassy quotes African Bureau's report of Ojukwu's message to Senator McCarthy, carried by Radio Biafra, expressing gratitude for McCarthy's "judicious and frank statement" on the Nigeria-Biafra conflict. A Radio Biafra announcement of plans to recruit officers for the Biafran diplomatic service, as reported by FBIS, was the subject of another telegram from the Lagos embassy. [redacted]

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8. Commendation: The Propaganda Analysis Division's 21 June Special Report on "The Conflict Between Mao Tse-tung and Liu Shao-Chi on the issue of Agricultural Mechanization" was praised as a "superb job of synthesis and analysis" in a letter to the Chief of the division from the Acting Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate General, Hong Kong. [redacted]

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PUBLICATIONS

9. Latin American Press Abbreviations: The Latin American Branch of the Europe, Africa, Latin America Division published its annual "Abbreviations in the Latin America Press" via the contractual facility. The unique 119 page report was sent to all bureaus monitoring Latin America. [REDACTED]

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10. Processing Branch Hours: Working hours for Processing Branch personnel were changed from 0700-1530 to 0800-1630 effective 5 August. The new hours permit a closer coordination of the typing and editorial functions in preparing the Daily Report. When typing for the current day's reports is completed, the branch continues typing for the following day's books. [REDACTED]

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11. Contractual Facility Support: To assist Austrian Bureau during a period of heavy workload and staff shortages, the domestic contractual facility undertook the translating, editing, and typing on mats of two lengthy "current" press items for the Daily Report, the 40,000-word theses for the upcoming Polish party congress and a 45,000-word Zhivkov speech to a Bulgarian party plenum. Both items were issued as Daily Report supplements. A 12,000-word article from the Moscow KOMMUNIST translated by the facility was published in the 15 August Daily Report. [REDACTED]

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12. Supplements: Eight supplements to the Eastern Europe Daily Report were published during the past month: "Materials on Czechoslovak Political Developments, Volume V," dated 22 July, 78 pages; "Materials on Albanian Political and Economic Developments," dated 24 July, 54 pages; "PZPR Central Committee Theses for Fifth Party Congress," dated 30 July, 82 pages; "Materials on Polish Political and Economic Developments," dated 1 August, 78 pages; "Materials on Czechoslovak Political Developments, Volume VI," dated 6 August, 80 pages; "Materials on Yugoslav Political and Economic Developments, Volume II," dated 13 August, 65 pages; "Todor Zhivkov Speech at Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum 24 July 1968," dated 14 August, 81 pages; and "Materials on Polish and Yugoslav Political and Economic Developments," dated 16 August, 78 pages. [REDACTED]

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FIELD OPERATIONS

13. TASS Coverage: The main TASS service in English to Europe discontinued radio transmissions on 1 August after the BBC began receiving a similar file via landline through TASS' London Bureau. TASS intimated to BBC that the new arrangement was to prevent illegal interception of the file and that BBC was the last subscriber using the radio service. The landline service continues to be available to FBIS London editors. Other TASS radioteletype services continue to function as before. [REDACTED]

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14. Okinawa AUTODIN Entry: As a stopgap measure prior to the bureau's entry into the high-speed Automatic Digital Network (AUTODIN) and to alleviate overloading of the manual relay center, Okinawa Bureau has been connected into AUTODIN with Mode V, 100-wpm equipment. On 12 August this equipment was made operational for test and training purposes. At that time the bureau's routing indicator was changed to RUAOEUA. Most traffic normally sent by common-user will be entered to AUTODIN until such time as Headquarters and Okinawa Bureau receive Digital Subscriber Terminal (DST) equipment for high-speed AUTODIN. [REDACTED]

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15. Monitor Recruiting: The unexpected resignation of a senior Korean monitor in Okinawa caused both that Bureau and the Tokyo Bureau to start an immediate recruiting drive for a qualified replacement. The new Vietnamese monitor who entered on duty at the Saigon Bureau brings the regular monitorial staff to eight. A former monitor on military assignment in Saigon has been working at the Bureau in his spare time. The Okinawa Bureau Operations Officer visited Taipei 22-24 July to interview and test candidates for Chinese monitor positions in both Okinawa and Hokkaido. A Vietnamese monitor and a French/Thai monitor entered on duty at the Bangkok Bureau on 1 August and 15 July respectively. The bureau is recruiting to replace one of its two Burmese monitors who is leaving. A new Arab monitor has entered on duty at the Mediterranean Bureau. [REDACTED]

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16. Broadcasting Developments: Radio Hanoi's introduction of major increases in international broadcasting which generated substantial interest in the intelligence community, was the subject of a Monitoring Operations Section Special Memorandum. Moscow's "Radio Peace and Progress"

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announced that it commenced on 13 August "four half-hour programs daily in Mongolian." These include one basic broadcast with two identical repeats and the other a partial repeat. Tokyo Bureau is covering. All-India Radio has announced that it will begin broadcasts in nine new languages shortly: Vietnamese, Lao, Cambodian, Sikkimese, Bhutanese, Russian, Malay, Sindhi, and Japanese. Presumably these programs will be international service programs. [redacted]

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17. Special Services: A completely revised Arab World Section of Program Schedules of Foreign Broadcasting Stations was issued by the Monitoring Operations Section. [redacted]

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ENGINEERING

18. Hokkaido Bureau: Radio Frequency, audio, and control wiring of the Bureau's main radio console and the monitoring positions has been completed. [redacted]

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19. Panama Bureau: One of the bureau's VEE antennas, which has been modified and reoriented in accordance with design data provided by the Engineering Staff, was placed in operation during the month. Preliminary tests of reception of certain Central American stations are encouraging. [redacted]

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20. Headquarters: As of 26 August, the rearrangement of FBIS office space in the Key Building was virtually complete. All components have moved into their new spaces on the 4th, 10th, and 11th floors and some partition work and a small amount of painting are required to finish the space changes and component relocation project. [redacted]

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MISCELLANEOUS

21. Visits and Briefings: FBIS personnel attended familiarization briefings at the National Military Command Center and the State Department Office of Communications. Several visitors from DIA were briefed on FBIS during the month.

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Visitors to field bureaus included: [redacted] to London and Austrian Bureaus enroute to the Mediterranean Bureau to assume the duties of Chief and Deputy Chief respectively; Japanese representative to the HICOM Advisory Committee Ambassador Kiro Takese, Chief of Staff USARYIS Colonel R. H. Deason, and VOA Tokyo correspondent Mr. Ray Kabaker to the Okinawa Bureau; [redacted] to the German Bureau; Cyprus Deputy Chief of Mission, William R. Crawford, Embassy Political Officer, Eric Neff and Embassy Defense Attache Col. Robert E. Gildersleeve to the Mediterranean Bureau; Fort Clayton ASA Chief Lt. Col. William Davidson to the Panama Bureau; Kenneth Bache and Steve Telkins, Director and Deputy Director of USIS in the Northern States of Nigeria, to the African Bureau. [redacted]

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ADMINISTRATION

22. Medical Examinations: Medical examinations are required for all personnel and dependents transferring laterally and on various other occasions. There have been instances where the employee was examined, but the dependents were not. [redacted] should be consulted whenever doubt exists. [redacted]

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23. Re-Entry Permits: When non-Staff employees holding re-entry permits secured through FBIS resign from FBIS to return to the U.S. to take up residence, they should return the permits to FBIS Headquarters if they are not picked up by immigration authorities. Such personnel should be instructed to forward the permit(s) to the Chief, Administrative Staff, by registered mail as soon as they arrive in the U.S.

[redacted]

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24. Pen and Ink Changes: [redacted]

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[redacted]

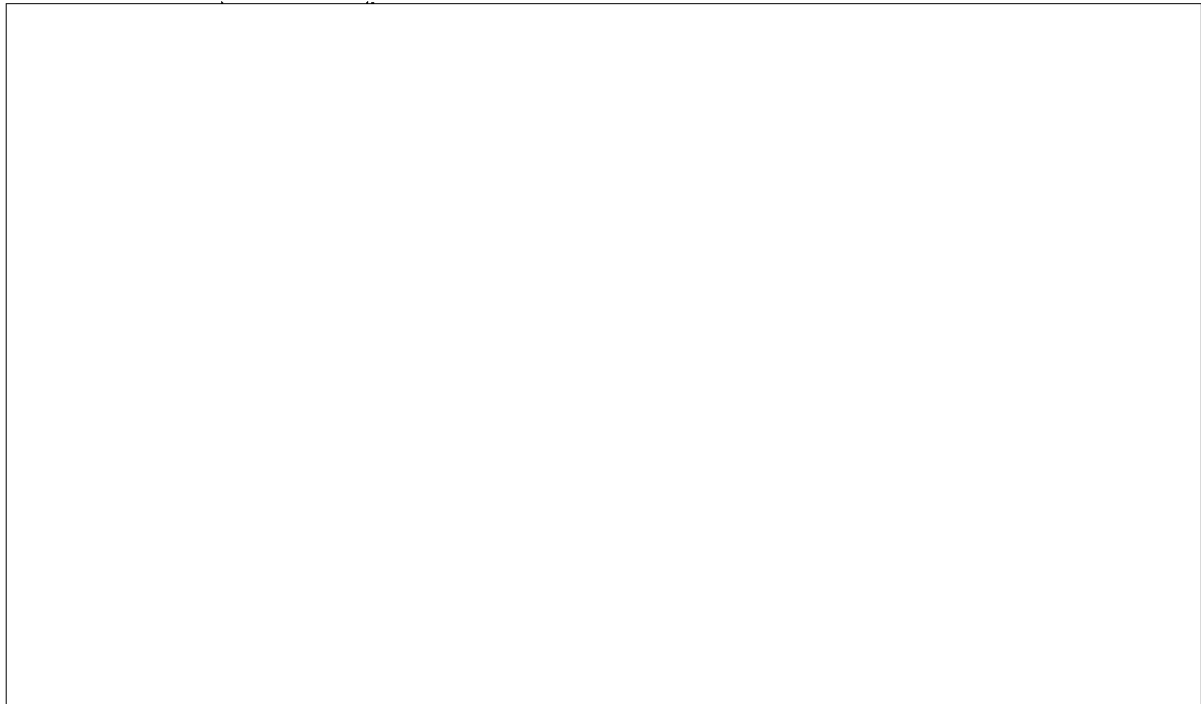
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25. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated:



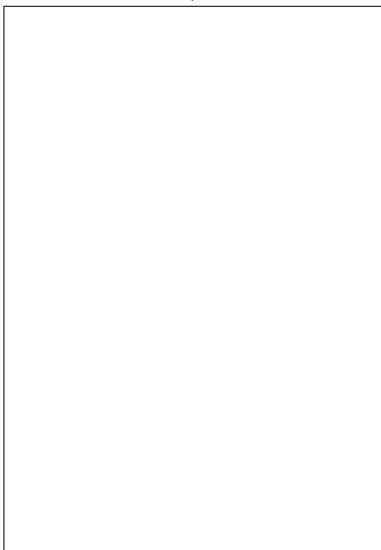
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PERSONNEL

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26. New Employees

Assignment



- Area Officer, USSR Division
- Editor, Publications Division
- Editor, Publications Division
- Editor, Publications Division
- Area Officer, Asia Division
- Editor, Publications Division
- Area Officer, USSR Division
- Administrative Officer, Caribbean Bureau

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27. <u>Reassignments</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
	Watch Officer Caribbean Bureau	Asst. Chief Engineer Okinawa Bureau	50X1
	Area Officer USSR Division	Editor Publications Division	
	Deputy Chief Executive & Planning Staff	Deputy Chief Mediterranean Bur.	
	Chief Exec. & Planning Staff	Chief Mediterranean Bur.	
	Senior Editor Caribbean Bureau	Liaison Officer Exec. & Planning Staff	
	Monitor Caribbean Bureau	Area Officer Eur/Af/LA Division	
	Area Officer USSR Division	Analyst Propaganda Anal. Div.	
	Teletype Supervisor Caribbean Bureau	Teletype Supervisor Wire Services Staff	
	Senior Editor Wire Services Staff	Senior Editor Okinawa Bureau	
	Chief USSR Division	Deputy Chief Operations Group	
	Editor Publications Div.	Editor Panama Bureau	
	Watch Officer Key West Bureau	Project Engineer Engineering Staff	

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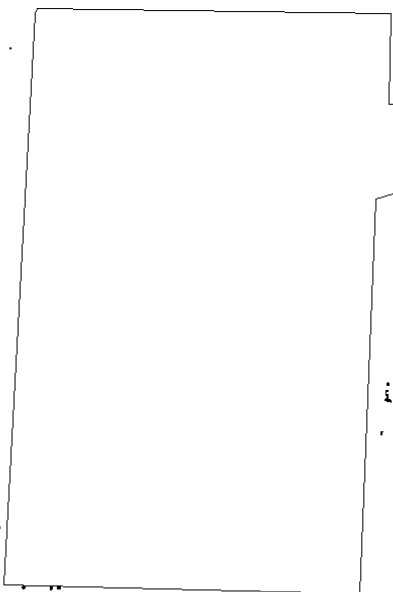
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Reassignments

From

To



Editor  
Publications Division

Area Officer  
Eur/Af/LA Division

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Editor  
Publications Div.

Editor  
Mediterranean Bureau

Editor  
African Bureau

Editor  
Publications Division

Asst. Chief Engineer  
Okinawa Bureau

Chief Engineer  
West Coast Bureau

Liaison Officer  
Exec&Planning Staff

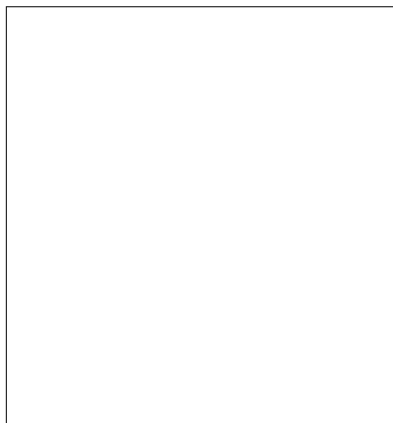
Senior Editor  
Bangkok Bureau

Typing Unit Supervisor  
Publications Division

Secretary  
Engineering Staff

28. Resignations

From



Area Officer, Eur/Af/Latin America Div.

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Editor, Publications Division

Editor, Publications Division

Area Officer, Asia Division

Monitor, Caribbean Bureau

Secretary, Engineering Staff,

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ROGER G. SEELY  
Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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