

LD file

25 March 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel
SUBJECT : Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. East Coast Bureau: After nearly two decades of operation the East Coast Bureau closed monitoring on 18 March. All of its coverage responsibilities were transferred to the Caribbean Bureau. Another Organization component is scheduled to take over the Hedgeneck premises, with FBIS retaining the Radio Central area for the use of the Engineering Staff and Field Operations Staff on special projects. [redacted] 50X1

2. Saigon Situation: While security controls in Saigon have been relaxed considerably since the Viet Cong attacks in February, the situation at the end of the month was still tense and far from normal. A curfew between 1900 and 0700, for both American civilians and Vietnamese, remained in effect throughout the Saigon-Cholon area. All personnel remaining at the Bureau after curfew were forced to stay overnight; thus editors were working 24 hours on and 24 hours off. Security precautions continued to be strictly enforced in light of reports that more attacks were forthcoming. With the easing of the curfew and the removal of most roadblocks, monitors were able to report for duty with increasing reliability after mid-February, when normal coverage was resumed. The Okinawa and Bangkok bureaus had shared or backstopped most of Saigon Bureau's coverage since the beginning of the crisis. Two full-time monitors of the Saigon Bureau were recalled to military service. [redacted] 50X1

3. Panama Crisis: The Panama Bureau was considerably ahead of press agencies in reporting developments related to the impeachment of President Robles of Panama during the weekend of 22-24 March. The impeachment charges placed before the National Assembly precipitated a number of street demonstrations and rallies in Panama City, which made it necessary to advise bureau Staff personnel against leaving the Zone. Sitreps filed by Embassy components in Panama City relied heavily on FBIS reporting. [redacted] 50X1

4. Jordanian-Israeli Clash: The White House Situation Room reported that materials supplied by the FBIS Wire Service and one other agency were considerably ahead of other official sources on the Jordanian-Israeli clash of 21 March and were passed promptly to Mr. Walt Rostow for the President. The monitoring was done at the Mediterranean Bureau. [redacted] 50X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

Group 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

S-E-C-R-E-T

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SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

5. Lateral Services: The latest revised edition of the Lateral Services List will be distributed the latter part of April. Bureaus are advised to check the new list carefully as several services have been moved to different categories or amended. Bureaus are reminded that material filed to other bureaus for background information or coordination purposes is not regarded as a lateral service; only material filed to a bureau for forwarding to a non-FBIS consumer should be included in the Lateral Service List. [redacted]

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Following a 30-day trial period, the American Embassy in Lisbon requested the London Bureau continue as a permanent lateral service the pouching of program summaries from the Portuguese clandestine transmitters "Radio Free Portugal" and "The Voice of Freedom". Ambassador Bennett, in a letter to the State Department, described the summaries as "highly useful" and stated that this service "adds a new element to the Embassy's analysis of the domestic situation in Portugal." [redacted]

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The Naval Air Station (FICPACFAC) at Cubi Point, Philippines, has asked to be made an addressee for FBIS material sent to the U.S. 7th Fleet. The Bangkok and Okinawa bureaus are now filing all processed items from Indonesian sources to the Voice of America, Bangkok, at its request. [redacted]

50X1

The Okinawa and Saigon Bureaus began wirefiling significant references to specific NLFSV organizations to the U.S. Consulate, Da Nang, at its request. [redacted]

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6. Special Services: The KCNA English text of an alleged letter from the crew of the Pueblo to President Johnson was run on the Wire at the request of the White House Situation Room. The Wire also carried the Hanoi VNA transmission of the Vietnam Courier article, "The Meaning of the San Antonio Formula," in response to a call from the White House.

The USSR Division translated a "letter from a young Soviet" on a priority basis for the Office of the DCI. The Czechoslovakia/Hungary Branch/EAD used press sources to verify the location of all but five of the 37 known computers in Hungary for an Organization component. The Asia Division translated an 85-page classified Arabic document entitled, "Program of the Communist Party of the Sudan," for an Organization office. [redacted]

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The German Bureau furnished a set of still photographs of a portion of the East Berlin TV series on the Red Army's 50th anniversary to the Office of the Senior Naval Representative, Frankfurt, at its request. [redacted]

50X1

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In response to a requirement from the State Department's Coordinator of Cuban Affairs, Miami, the Key West Bureau provided him with Havana Radio's first monitored report of the hijacking of the Delta Airlines aircraft. This report included the name of the hijacker which had been lacking in press reports. [redacted]

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In response to a requirement received through an Organization component, the East Coast Bureau provided Spanish-language texts of two Cuban leader's speeches for the U.S. Ambassador to Chile. [redacted]

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7. Press and Document Exploitation: The PMU/London now has five Soviet newspapers -- PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, TRUD, AND SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA -- under full exploitation. [redacted]

50X1

Asia Division received 72 Red Guard publications during the month. The Japanese Unit of Asia Division completed scrutiny of some 850 pages of the Dewi (Sukarno's wife) diary and notes, producing 87 pages of English translation from this material. The unit also translated a highly technical 39-page document on uranium isotope concentration. [redacted]

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Two chapters of a Russian manual on the T-55 tank were translated by the USSR Division. This 104-page segment, which covered the gun stabilization system and the tank's radiation shielding equipment and characteristics, was urgently needed by the community for evaluation purposes. [redacted]

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8. Use of FBIS Material: A memorandum from an Organization official stated that French language translations prepared by the Near East/North Africa Branch of Asia Division contained the bulk of details used in Section 6 of the National Intelligence Survey on Algeria. The memorandum further noted that these translations were the only sources of data on Algeria obtained from material published in France. [redacted]

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In a communication to the Chief, Bangkok Bureau, the Director of the East Asia Bureau/VOA stated that FBIS is one of the basic sources for his bureau's output. [redacted]

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In a report dated 1 March, OCI presented a sampling of news broadcasts of 28 February monitored by FBIS as "graphically illustrating" the situation in Czechoslovakia, concluding that "such a news day has been typical in recent weeks". The items cited had been monitored by the London Bureau. [redacted]

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Some 40 cables originated by the U.S. Embassy, Saigon, during February were based on FBIS-monitored information. [redacted]

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9. Propaganda Analysis: PAD coverage of the upheavals in Czechoslovakia and Poland has centered primarily on an examination of the reactions of the other European communist countries and the USSR to events which could set off a chain reaction and threaten the cohesiveness of Soviet-led bloc organizations. A running account of the scope and nature of Soviet, East German, Hungarian, Rumanian, and Bulgarian news and comment on these developments, as well as Prague treatment of the Polish disorders and Warsaw treatment of the Czech events, has been carried in the weekly Trends. The London, Austrian and German Bureaus and Headquarters Area Division support has been essential to this analysis and to PAD's capability to answer consumer questions on bloc reactions. An article in the 14 March Survey sums up Czechoslovak press and radio indications of the newly "independent" foreign policy line being evolved by the Czech leadership. [redacted]

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The Vietnam analysis effort continues to concentrate on the increasingly complex military and political situation in South Vietnam, as well as on Hanoi reactions to manifestations in the United States of concern and dissent over the war. Secretary Rusk's testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the outcome of the New Hampshire primary brought a number of Organization and State Department inquiries about Vietnamese communist reactions. Some 30 Hanoi items on U.S. dissent were assembled from Daily Reports and PAD's Hanoi Key Themes file for a State Department requester. [redacted]

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10. Commendations: On the occasion of the termination of operations at the East Coast Bureau, FBIS received a letter of appreciation from Mr. John Daly, Director of the Voice of America. Mr. Daly stated in part: "your daily feeds have been of great assistance to us, particularly during crisis situations when we have turned to foreign broadcasts to help us keep up with fast-breaking news stories." [redacted]

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In a letter to FBIS, Dr. Philip E. Mosely, Director of the European Institute of Columbia University, expressed his appreciation for the Foreign Press Digest: Soviet Union on the occasion of its amalgamation with the USSR Daily Report. Dr. Mosely said the report had combined "excellent judgment of significant new comment in the Soviet press with conscientious mirroring of divergent trends." [redacted]

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In a speech at ceremonies on 21 March marking the unveiling of a plaque in honor of Mr. Allen Dulles, the DCI mentioned FBIS first in a run-down of USIB organizations providing materials on the 6 June 1967 outbreak of Arab-Israeli hostilities. [redacted]

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PUBLICATIONS

11. Daily Report Procedures: To cope with the growing volume of publishable material, make more effective use of Headquarters editorial and typing staffs, and provide a partial solution to the continuing problem of publication space, two changes in Daily Report procedures were instituted during the month: 1) a Sunday-Thursday workweek for two USSR/EE Branch editors was initiated 3 March on an experimental basis; 2) effective 15 March the Daily Report began forwarding to the contractual facility material considered more "basic" than "current" from all unrestricted sources for publication in the appropriate issuance. [redacted]

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12. Supplements: Five supplements to the Daily Report were published during the past month: "Materials on Internal Czechoslovak Political Developments," 5 March, 61 pages (prepared by the contractual facility), and Volume II, same title, dated 20 March 1968, 79 pages; "Materials on the 50th Anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces, Volume I, dated 8 March 1968, 87 pages (partly prepared by the contractual facility); "Text of KPD Draft Program for West Germany, "dated 23 February 1968, 37 pages, (prepared by the German Bureau); and "Text of Castro Havana University Speech," dated 18 March 1968, 45 pages. [redacted]

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FIELD OPERATIONS

13. Bangkok Communications: UHF radio terminals are being installed to operate between the Bangkok Bureau and the DCA communications center, replacing unreliable land lines. Installation is nearing completion. [redacted]

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14. Chicom Regional Broadcasting: Considerable activity among Chinese regional broadcasting stations developed during February and early March, representing in some cases a change in broadcast patterns that had held since before the start of the "cultural revolution." Several provincial radios broke their solid relay of the Peking domestic service to originate their own programming. For some stations this was a short-lived change and in others the pattern of own-station origination continues. The Okinawa and Hokkaido bureaus have assumed coverage of the new programming. The BBC has added a fourth Chinese radio monitor to its Hong Kong operation. [redacted]

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15. Other Broadcast Developments: The communist clandestine "Voice of the Iraqi People," which had been active since 1963 as a spinoff of "Radio Peyk-e Iran" and broadcasting in Arabic and Kurdish, announced on 26 February that it was suspending broadcasts "until an unknown date." Another communist clandestine broadcaster, the Greek "Voice of Truth," which has broadcast since 1958 from both Rumanian and East German transmitters, suffered the loss of its operating base in Rumania and is now using one East German transmitter. It is covered by the BBC.

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Albania, using Chinese-built transmitters operating near Tirana, has added Portuguese to its international service transmissions. This is Albania's initial effort in this language. Tirana has more than doubled the hours of its international services since last July and has added more than 38 hours weekly in broadcasts since 1 January. BBC covers Albanian external services.

Radio Moscow inaugurated special programs in the African languages of Shona and Ndebele for listeners in Rhodesia on 13 March. The United Arab Republic also schedules programs in Shona, and Tanzania broadcasts in both Shona and Ndebele. [redacted]

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ENGINEERING

16. Caribbean Bureau: The overall building contract of the Caribbean Bureau is 99.9% complete. Final inspection of the construction was held on 27 February 1968. The major part of the construction was judged highly satisfactory and only a few minor items remain to be corrected for final acceptance. On recommendation of the Wire Grid Lens antenna designer, and on the basis of preliminary results of Naval Research Laboratory tests, certain coaxial connections to the antenna will be changed. These changes will improve the selectivity and sensitivity of the antenna taps above fourteen megacycles. The number of multicoupler outputs will be reduced slightly until additional multicouplers are provided. [redacted]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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17. Chief of Saigon Bureau: [redacted] will assume duties as Chief, Saigon Bureau, in April, vice [redacted] has been chief of the D.C. Office of the contractual facility. [redacted]

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18. Briefings and Visits: FBIS personnel visited and were briefed on operations in the White House Situation Room, the National Military Command Center at the Pentagon, the State Department's Operations Center, and the Organization's printing plant. [redacted]

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[redacted] Deputy Director, departed 5 March for visits to FBIS bureaus in the Far East, the U.S. Consulate General/Hong Kong, and CINPAC, Honolulu. [redacted] Chief, Publications Division, visited the West Coast Bureau and the San Francisco Office of the domestic contractual facility from 5-9 February. [redacted] Chief of

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Production, visited the London, German, Austrian, and Mediterranean Bureaus from 4-22 March. [redacted] Chief, Administrative Staff, visited the Caribbean and Key West Bureaus, 9-21 March, and [redacted] Chief, USSR Division, departed on 19 March for the West Coast, Key West, Panama, and Caribbean Bureaus. [redacted]

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Mr. Charles Eberhardt, Chief of VOA's East Asia Bureau, visited the Bangkok Bureau 12 February. Maj. Gen. Jerry D. Page, Commander of the 313th Air Division, visited the Okinawa Bureau 9 February. [redacted]

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[redacted] Acting Chief, Asia Division, and [redacted] Chief, Internal Affairs Branch, PAD, attended a seminar of the Association for Asian Studies in Philadelphia 20-24 March. Four FBIS Staff officers visited Cambridge, Mass., 12-13 March in connection with a study of cathode ray editing devices. [redacted]

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50X1ADMINISTRATION

19. Hotel Reservations: When requesting hotel reservations in the Washington area, please let the Administrative Staff know the approximate time of arrival at the hotel, the length of stay, the type of room wanted, and the approximate price range. [redacted]

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20. Travel Vouchers: The Administrative Staff has encountered some difficulties with the Office of Finance on dual charges for the purchase of airline tickets. Please indicate on all travel vouchers whether tickets were paid in the field. [redacted]

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21. Training: During the reporting period the following personnel attended training courses: [redacted]

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a. [redacted] Chief, Far East Branch, Publications Division - Midcareer Executive Development Course, 28 January - 8 March 1968

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b. [redacted] Chief, WE/AF/ME/LA Branch, Publications Division - Advanced Management Planning Course, 17 - 22 March 1968

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

[Redacted]

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[Large Redacted Area]

PERSONNEL

23. New Employees

Assignment

[Redacted]

Area Officer, Asia Division

50X1

Area Officer, USSR Division

24. Reassignments

From

TO

[Redacted]

Editor
Publications Div.

Editor
Caribbean Bureau

50X1

Monitor
East Coast Bureau

Area Officer
Europe/AF/Lat. Am.Div.

Senior Editor
Wire Services Staff

Deputy Chief
Wire Services Staff

Monitor
East Coast Bureau

Area Officer
Europe/AF/Lat. Am.Div.

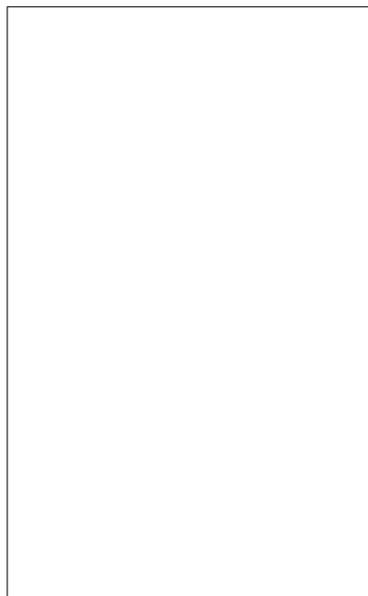
Monitor
East Coast Bureau

Area Officer
Europe/AF/Lat. Am.Div.

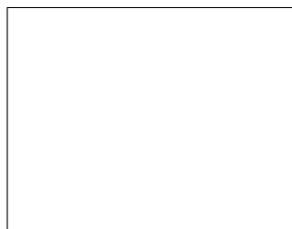
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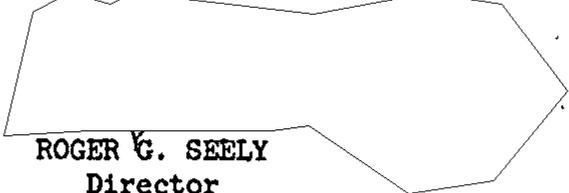
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24. Reassignments

| <u>From</u> | <u>To</u> | |
|--|---|------|
| Monitor East Coast Bureau | Area Officer Europe/Af/Lat.Am.Div. | 50X1 |
| Teletype Operator East Coast Bureau | Teletype Operator Wire Services Staff | |
| Monitor East Coast Bureau | Area Officer Asia Division | |
| Senior Editor East Coast Bureau | Area Officer  | 50X1 |
| Teletype Supervisor East Coast Bureau | Teletype Shift Supervisor Wire Services Staff | |
| Editor Publications Div. | Editor Saigon Bureau | |

25. Resignations

| <u>From</u> | |
|--|------|
| Area Officer, USSR Division | 50X1 |
| Area Officer, Asia Division | |
| Clerk Typist, Publications Division | 50X1 |
|  | |
| ROGER G. SEELY Director Foreign Broadcast Information Service | |

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