

S-E-C-R-E-T

26 January 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Pueblo Incident: The Okinawa Bureau monitored the first Pyongyang Radio announcement on the seizure of the USS Pueblo at 1040 GMT 23 January, with the item clearing the Wire Service 21 minutes later. Coverage of North Korea was immediately intensified with subsequent material on the crisis carried on the Wire Service well in advance of press agency reporting. [redacted]

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Okinawa's monitoring of an alleged "confession" by the Pueblo commander, Comdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, occasioned widespread activity directed toward obtaining a tape of the broadcast in Washington as rapidly as possible. Both the Department of Defense and White House expressed urgent interest on a high level, and the National Military Command Center arranged for SAC aircraft to bring the tape from Okinawa to Washington. The recording was also transmitted by military voice circuits from Okinawa. West Coast Bureau, which intercepted a rebroadcast, also made special arrangements for delivery by plane. The Defense Department subsequently issued a statement based on the FBIS-monitored recording. [redacted]

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On 26 January the State Department issued a statement concerning North Korean threats to "punish" the Pueblo crew, also based on FBIS monitoring. [redacted]

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2. Cyprus Situation: While the agreement on withdrawal of "illegal" troops from Cyprus removed the immediate threat of war and permitted a return to normal living and working conditions, it contributed nothing to a solution of underlying Cyprus political problems. Another serious threat developed over New Year's weekend when the Turkish Cypriot leadership announced formation of a "provisional administration" for the Turkish community. The nuisance bombings that occurred in Kyrenia during the crisis were ended through a combination of strict police surveillance and nighttime patrolling by police and civil defense volunteers. [redacted]

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Group 1

Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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3. Caribbean Bureau: The overall building contract for the Caribbean Bureau is now more than 98 percent completed, with the final inspection date set for 27 February. All rooms of the operations building are now in use. Monitors, editors, and teletypists moved into the new building 3 January. The Naval Research Laboratory began extensive tests utilizing the new Wire Grid Lens antenna on 10 January. The phased transfer of all East Coast Bureau coverage to the Caribbean Bureau will be completed by 18 March. As of 1 January a total of 25 Staff employees were on duty. [redacted]

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SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

4. Special Services: In response to an urgent Organization requirement, the Wire Service carried the entire 11-take text of Fidel Castro's 2 January speech reporting fuel shortages in Cuba, which had been monitored by the Key West and East Coast Bureaus. The East Coast Bureau also supplied copies of new Anatolia News Agency casts from Turkey for USIA. Other special services included the supplying of material to Congressman Melvin Laird and Sen. Clinton Anderson; material for the State Department on a Moscow attack on Ethiopia for receiving Vice President Humphrey; and a tape of U.S. prisoners in North Vietnam singing Christmas carols, provided by the East Coast Bureau for Voice of America from a Havana broadcast. During the Greek crisis, the London Bureau provided the U.S. Embassy London with monitored reports on developments and the U.S. Naval Attache in London with special Soviet materials. [redacted]

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5. Sihanouk Statements: The 1 January Phnom Penh press conference in which Cambodia's Prince Sihanouk denied giving permission for U.S. troops to cross the Cambodian border in hot pursuit was broadcast at 0002 GMT 1 January and an FYI was carried on the Wire Service at 0128 GMT, beating press agencies by 14 hours. Significant references to Ambassador Bowles' activities were also supplied to the U.S. embassies in Bangkok and New Delhi, and cable traffic from Bangkok indicated the State Department depended on FBIS monitoring for verification of the Cambodian release on the Bowles visit. [redacted]

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6. Coordination of POW Information: Community interest in information on U.S. prisoners of war in North Vietnam remains high, but unintentional duplication of effort by U.S. agencies is a continuing problem. FBIS has sought to acquaint other USIB components with the extent of the FBIS collection effort. In early January the Liaison and Requirements Office briefed members of the interagency

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POW committee regarding FBIS services on POW matters, and State Department officers were also briefed after indications that the Embassy in Bonn was duplicating efforts of the German Bureau in obtaining television pictures. Field bureaus are asked to provide a full transcription and complete tape recording of any own-voice songs or poems by POW's; identification of POW's is now being attempted through voice-print techniques. To centralize handling and dissemination, an Organization facility is reproducing tape recordings received from field bureaus. [redacted]

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7. Support of U.S. Missions: At the request of an Organization component, pertinent FBIS-monitored material relating to a Latin American cultural conference held in Havana from 4-11 January was filed laterally to more than 20 U.S. Embassies in the Latin America area. [redacted]

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8. Propaganda Analysis: A Special Memorandum was prepared by PAD in response to a request from an Organization component for a study of Soviet Propaganda on foreign bases with a view to identifying any change in the official line. PAD found no evidence of significant change. [redacted]

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Special Report RS. 85, "The Bolivian Guerrilla Adventure," documented Cuban, Latin American communist, and other communist propaganda on the seven-month guerrilla movement that collapsed with Che Guevara's death. Soviet press photographs were examined in Special Report RS. 86 for indications of the rankings of junior members of the CPSU Politburo. Special Report RS. 87, "New Quotations from Mao Tse-tung," was a compilation of statements by Mao given initial release in CPR provincial media during 1966 and 1967. [redacted]

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Items prepared by PAD for the FBIS Wire included a roundup of propaganda on statements of the South Vietnam National Liberation Front missions in foreign countries, background on recent statements by DRV Foreign Minister Trinh regarding negotiations, and information on CPR regional radio behavior. [redacted]

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9. Press and Document Exploitation. The London PMU began operating from its Wembley Park offices on 13 December, PMU teletype equipment had been connected by leased duplex circuit to the Embassy's unclassified teletype room on the 12th. One Polish, one Albanian, and

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four Russian press monitors entered on duty during the month. With the issues of 19 January the PMU was covering a total of 12 Soviet newspapers. On 8 January, the Chief of Production sent a letter of evaluation and guidance to PMU noting the unit's continued progress and good quality of the product. [redacted]

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The Language Services Branch of EAD translated some English texts on Chinese missile tests into Spanish on a priority basis for an Organization component. The material was subsequently used by Organization officers at a briefing in Spain for cabinet-level officials. [redacted]

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The USSR Division translated 160 pages of selected material from two issues of the tightly-controlled Soviet journal Military Thought. The Division also translated some Russian correspondence received by the American Society for Testing Materials, and furnished OSI with a translation of a French classified document providing pathological data on presumed gas victims in Yemen. The Division also expeditiously translated a Lithuanian newspaper interview with a Soviet cosmonaut after a Western news agency quoted the cosmonaut as stating that the Soviet Union was planning a 10-man spaceshot in 1968; the FBIS translation revealed the news agency story to be a distortion of the facts. [redacted]

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During the month Headquarters received 84 Red Guard newspapers, 45 miscellaneous bulletins and leaflets, and 118 issues of secret People's Liberation Army and militia publications from Communist China. In Iraq, a new press law abolished existing newspapers and henceforth publications will be authorized only by the Ministry of Guidance and Culture; FBIS received two of the five new titles authorized by the law. Asia Division provided an Organization component with a priority translation of a Beirut Al-Hayat article on the downing of a Soviet aircraft by Yemeni Royalists. [redacted]

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PUBLICATIONS

10. Larger Daily Report: On 22 January the Daily Report was expanded from six to seven books with separation of the USSR & East Europe report into the Daily Report "Eastern Europe" (orange cover) and the Daily Report "Soviet Union" (salmon cover). Four former Foreign Press Digest dailies and two semi-weeklies were discontinued and their items will be included either in the Daily Report or in a contractual publication. This achieves a major goal of merging radio and press monitoring material. The Soviet Union book has a new Table of Contents breakdown; International Affairs, Domestic Affairs, Economic Affairs, Scientific Affairs, and Military Affairs. The Eastern Europe book now presents countries alphabetically. "Briefs" will be presented in any available space as "fillers." The area books will continue to be printed overnight, while the White Book, limited to 70 pages, will be distributed with a one day lag. This procedure provides 70 additional pages of text for the Daily Report, a total of 376 pages daily, or nearly 50% more than a year ago. Further, FBIS is attempting to obtain a page allocation from PSD which will permit any area book to reach the 88-page maximum on any given day.

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11. Reaction Report: A Special Memorandum, "Foreign Radio and Press Reaction to President Johnson's State of the Union Message," was published 22 January through the joint efforts of the Publications and Propaganda Analysis Divisions. At the request of the White House, advance copies were delivered to high-level officials.

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12. Supplements: Seven "Supplements" to the Daily Report were published in the past month: "Text of Speech by Kim Il-Song to Fourth Supreme People's Assembly on 16 December 1967 presenting DPRK Government Political Program," dated 21 December 1967, 39 pages; "Materials on Soviet Republic Party Central Committee Plenums, October-November 1967," dated 27 December 1967, 57 pages; "Materials on 6-8 December National Conference of the Rumanian Communist Party," Part II, dated 29 December 1967, 84 pages (typed on mats by the Austrian Bureau and airmailed to Headquarters for publication); "Materials on 20-22 December Session of the Hungarian National Assembly," dated 5 January, 59 pages; "Materials on 50th Anniversary of the Soviet State Security Organs," dated 10 January 1968, 58 pages; "Materials on 26-28 December Session of

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the Rumanian Grand National Assembly," dated 11 January 1968, 55 pages; "Materials on Ukrainian SBR 50th Anniversary Festivities," dated 19 January 1968, 72 pages. [redacted]

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13. Quality Control: A new quality control procedure designed to improve the accuracy of translations and the style of presentation of the domestic contractual facility's publications was formalized at the beginning of the year. The first translations by new contractors are being checked by linguists in the area divisions, whose findings will be fed back to the contractor through the Publications Division. A review of material translated by veteran and more frequently used contractors is also being undertaken. [redacted]

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FIELD OPERATIONS

14. Okinawa Communications. The Okinawa Bureau initiated full scale use of SATRAP, the automatic tape relay device, for processing NDNA's English radioteletype file on 6 December. By the end of December the bureau had processed 215 items through SATRAP, or approximately 80% of the NCNA English file for the period. [redacted]

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15. Panama Communications: A dedicated teletype circuit between Headquarters and the Panama Bureau has been requested through the Office of Communications and the Defense Communications System. Excessive delays in the receipt at Headquarters of high priority traffic via the common-user system and occasional complete loss of messages have made this action necessary. [redacted]

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16. Hokkaido-Tokyo Voice Circuit: An equalizing amplifier has been installed at the Tokyo end of the Hokkaido voice feed line that is being used experimentally for recording programs in Tokyo which are received better at Hokkaido. Progress on this experiment has been delayed for some months due to poor quality of reception in Tokyo of material relayed over the feeder circuit. [redacted]

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17. Broadcast Developments: Radio Havana International Service to Europe and North America now includes a program entitled "Voice of Vietnam," being covered by the East Coast Bureau. Broadcast in English and "dedicated to the American people," it is carried three times daily to North America and once to Europe.

The first known use of European-based transmitters to relay Radio Peking's International Service was noted on 1 January when transmitters from the Albanian International Service began carrying Peking's Serbo-Croatian broadcasts to Europe and other programs to North and South America. The BBC is covering the Serbo-Croatian transmissions,

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while the latter programs are being covered by the East Coast, West Coast, and Caribbean Bureaus. [redacted]

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ENGINEERING

18. Bangkok Equipment: Electronic equipment for a UHF communications link between the Bangkok Bureau and the military communications center was airshipped to Bangkok 19 January. It is anticipated that this equipment will be installed and operational within 30 days and will result in improved communications to Headquarters. [redacted]

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Asia Division linguists verified a discrepancy in the wording of one of the most controversial passages of Nasir's 23 November speech as reported by various news media, comparing it with the version carried in Al-Ahram. [redacted]

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MISCELLANEOUS

19. Briefings and Visits: The Chief of Operations briefed the Critical Collection Problems Committee of the USIB on 16 January regarding FBIS collection capabilities on North Korea. The Chief, Engineering Staff, visited the Caribbean, Key West, and Panama Bureaus during the 14-23 January period. Several Headquarters personnel visited Voice of America and met with new VOA Director John Daly.

Visitors to bureaus included [redacted] Head of the BBC Monitoring Service, at London Bureau, 1 December; [redacted] Chief BBC News Bureau, at the Austrian Bureau, 12-14 December; Col. Joseph Williamson and Lt. Col. J. B. Kelly, Commanding Officer and Deputy Commander, Fort Clayton, at the Panama Bureau, 12 December. [redacted]

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20. Plans and Programs: FBIS Plans and Programs for Fiscal Years 1970-1974 were forwarded to higher authority on 10 January. The submission included a statement of progress during calendar year 1967 toward implementing plans projected in the directorate's 1969-73 plan as well as details of 11 FBIS objectives supporting directorate objectives for 1970-74. The program budget, prepared by the Executive Staff, is the initial phase of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting cycle. [redacted]

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21. Press Monitors: With the movement of press monitoring activities overseas a variety of position titles are being used at field bureaus for foreign national personnel concerned with monitoring newspapers and journals. Whereas the formal job designation will vary in accordance with local wage scales, Headquarters prefers the term "press monitors" for those strictly engaged in press and journal monitoring. [redacted]

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22. Duplication Prevention: The Consolidated Translation Survey of Publications Division processed about 1,300 requirements and inquiries during December 1967. One hundred and twenty-six of these requests were for translations already available, which represented 6,318 pages of translation, or approximately \$31,000, saved. [redacted]

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23. Bureau Quality Control. A program has been initiated at Mediterranean Bureau in which a two or three week sample of a monitor's copy is reviewed by the chief editor or senior editor, who then meets with the monitor to critique his work. In addition a monitor is asked to read selected passages of Blumenthal's "English 3200," a programmed grammar review, and is then tested on the material. [redacted]

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ADMINISTRATION

24. Summer Employment. The following is reproduced from the November issue of Personnel News. It may be of interest to Staff employees whose children may wish to apply for non-Organization summer only jobs. [redacted]

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A new summer employment examination for 1968 will be given throughout the Nation on 10 February and 9 March. This exam will replace two separate nationwide exams given last year. Federal agencies will begin making selections after the first test has been processed. The new examination will provide candidates for seasonal assistant jobs in the postal service and a number of jobs in the grade range of GS-1 through GS-4, such as typists, stenographers, clerks, and engineering and science aids in other federal agencies. Candidates who achieved eligibility for employment last year must re-competes if they wish to be considered for summer work in 1968.

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25. Credit and Reference Information. All personnel returning to Headquarters from the field should contact the FBIS Security Officer in the Administrative Staff prior to releasing information for credit or reference purposes. [redacted]

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26. Training. The following personnel recently attended training courses: [redacted]

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a. [redacted] Acting Chief, Asia Division - Management Development Program for Federal Executives, U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School, 12 January 1968

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b. [redacted], Chief, USSR Division - Advanced Management Planning, 14 - 19 January 1968

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27. Regulatory Issuances. The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: [redacted]

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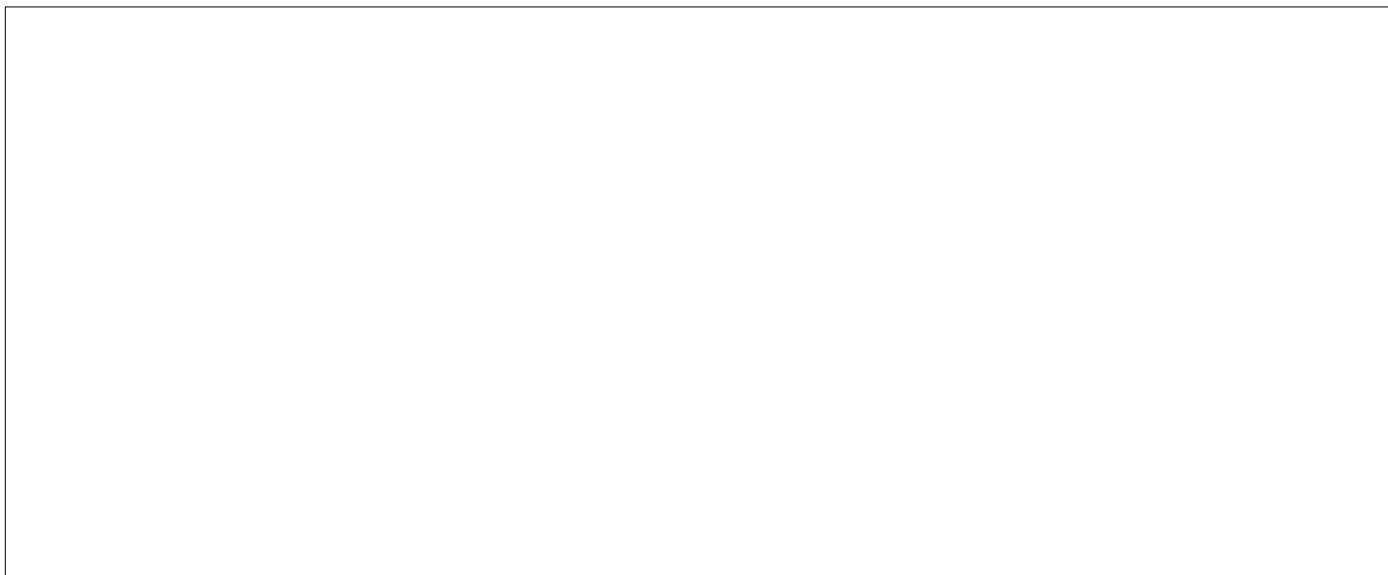
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PERSONNEL

28. New Employees

Assignment



Typist, Publications Division
Typist, Publications Division
Editor, Publications Division
Teletypist, Wire Services Staff

50X1

29. Reassignments

From

To



Monitor
East Coast Bureau
Editor
Publications Division
Editor
African Bureau
Editor
Mediterranean Bureau
Monitor
Caribbean Bureau
Editor
London Bureau
Editor
Publications Division
Editor
Publications Division

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30. Resignations



From

Teletypist, East Coast Bureau
Editor, Publications Division
Transcriptionist, Publications Division

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31. Retirements



From

Area Officer, Asia Division
Deputy Chief, Field Operations Staff
Area Officer, Asia Division

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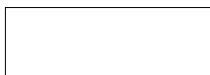
32. Deceased



Monitor, West Coast Bureau

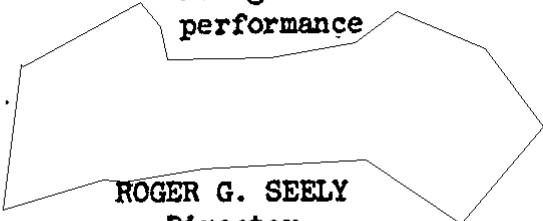
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33. Awards



Area Officer - Certificate of Distinction in
recognition of sustained superior
performance

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ROGER G. SEELY
Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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