

11 January 1984
MBK-001

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Bangkok Bureau--December 1983

I. GENERAL

1. The most notable event at the bureau during December came when we attempted to fill the swimming pool atop the [] building for a first-ever office Christmas swim party. Filling operations had barely raised the water level when the building management informed us that the pool could not be filled for fear of structural damage to the building. Thus dies the legend that Bangkok is such a plushy post that even the office has a swimming pool. []

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2. Security at the embassy has been augmented beyond previous awareness levels in the face of a general worldwide strengthening of entry procedures and avenues and newspaper reports of a specific threat against the embassy in Bangkok. The FBIS office itself has not been included in the threat, but [] building security has once again been heightened.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Effective 3 January the Indonesian/Malay section expanded its duty hours to incorporate a dayshift.

2. On 29 December the bureau obtained permission from headquarters to consolidate routine Kampuchean battle reports into a weekly editorial report similar to what is presently being done with Phnom Penh source reports on agriculture.

3. The bureau had occasion to test its fire evacuation plan on 13 December when a minor fire on the 6th floor of the [] building caused a half hour shutdown of operations. The FBIS area was secured and evacuated in good order.

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B. Lateral Services

1. Effective 15 December the bureau ceased filing processing FYI's to BBC on the Delhi English 0830, 1230, and 1530 GMT casts and the Karachi Urdu 1500 GMT cast. BBC no longer is listening to these casts as well for flash material.

2. The bureau has received permission from NEAD to cease subscribing to the Kabul English-language newspaper NEW TIMES. We had been backstopping NEAD's own subscription since May of 1982 but had not, during that period, been requested to cover for lost editions.

C. Technical

1. A small VHF base station has been received and installed along with two handheld units to be used for antenna field maintenance [redacted]

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2. We have received quotations for an IBM Personal Computer and components as requested by SDS and have forwarded the information to headquarters.

3. Audio feed lines to monitorial booths are being redirected as space for sections is being reallocated or new positions are being added.

4. On 6 January, the FBIS section at [redacted] in conjunction with the AeroThai office there, hosted a New Year Buddhist blessing ceremony at the [redacted] facility for the first time in 3 years. An AeroThai technician had died accidentally on the premises in each of the 2 years which had been skipped. Acting Chief [redacted] Bureau Engineer [redacted], Bureau Secretary [redacted] Editor [redacted] and new Indonesian/Malay monitor [redacted] attended the ceremony.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. [redacted] of Madras, the primary candidate for our new Tamil-Hindi-Urdu slot, has accepted our job offer and is in process.

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2. Our Thai/Chinese candidate [redacted] did not pass his security clearances. There being no other acceptable candidate, the bureau is restarting the recruitment process.

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3. Bureau employees were among those treated to a full Chinese dinner at the Imperial Hotel on 22 December to mark the marriage of Communications Section Deputy Chief [redacted]

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B. Buildings and Grounds

The bureau's construction projects, suspended in October and November by flooding at the carpenter's shop, resumed in December. Two new monitorial positions have been completed, doors have been cut between the offices in the central monitorial booth section to facilitate future staff space allocation, a door has been cut between the editorial and cruising rooms, and the consolidated copy file shelves in the editorial room have been installed.

IV. VISITS

A Security officer from Seoul, [redacted] visited the bureau on 9 December.

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[redacted]

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Chief, Bangkok Bureau

AEB:lf

Enc: Monthly Production Report

Communication Report

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1983

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	583,840 (570,050)
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	244,430 (229,270)
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,374 (1,391)

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	15,390 (15,390) min.	20,205 (20,205) min.	232.23 (232.23) issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	9,140 (20,020)		
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English			780 (0)
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English			0 (0)
Sydney THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English			0 (0)

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	1,370 (5,800)		
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	5,870 (8,190)		
Dhaka BSS in English		5,000 (3,880)	
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali			0 (0)
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English			0 (780)

BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	10,120 (8,110)		
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese			0 (1,470)
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese			80 (0)
Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese			0 (0)
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			130 (1,630)

CHINA

Beijing in Cambodian to Kampuchea	4,400 (0)		
Beijing in Hindi to India	0 (0)		
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	0 (0)		
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	0 (0)		
Beijing International in Bengali	120 (0)		
Beijing International in Burmese	1,400 (350)		
Beijing International in Indonesian	540 (0)		
Beijing International in Lao	420 (0)		
Beijing International in Thai	390 (0)		

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Radio Kawthulay in Burmese to Burma	5,350 (3,490)		
(Clandestine) Radio Kawthulay in English to Burma	0 (1,900)		

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
<u>CLANDESTINE (continued)</u>			
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	34,450 (23,380)		
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	4,210 (0)		
(Clandestine) Voice of The National Army of Democratic Kampuchean in Cambodian	2,640 (6,180)		
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Burma in Burmese	3,810 (550)		
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Malaysia in Malay	7,180 (1,600)		
<u>HONG KONG</u>			
Hong Kong AFP in English		47,840 (65,110)	
<u>INDIA</u>			
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	3,250 (3,150)		
Delhi Domestic Service in English	34,220 (47,530)		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		0 (380)	
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English			1,320 (610)
Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali			0 (0)
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English			1,670 (710)
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			2,860 (0)
Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English			460 (0)
Delhi PATRIOT in English			2,670 (0)
Madras THE HINDU in English			0 (0)
<u>INDONESIA</u>			
Jakarta International Service in English	2,090 (2,980)		
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	6,880 (9,910)		
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian			0 (0)
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English			1,080 (700)
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			0 (0)
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian			1,010 (0)
Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian			0 (0)
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			2,080 (0)
<u>KAMPUCHEA</u>			
Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	44,040 (15,290)		
Phnom Penh SPK in English		22,190 (13,370)	
Phnom Penh SPK in French		12,600 (13,240)	
		0 (0)	
		0 (0)	
<u>LAOS</u>			
Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao	44,820 (27,420)		

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	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
<u>LAOS (continued)</u>			
Vientiane KPL in English		27,230 (23,030)	STAT
		0 (0)	
		0 (0)	
		0 (0)	
Vientiane PASASON in Lao			0 (0)
<u>MALAYSIA</u>			
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	4,400 (6,470)		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	5,260 (3,220)		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	550 (0)		
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English			5,730 (7,200)
Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English			110 (80)
<u>NEPAL</u>			
Katmandu External Service in English	1,300 (730)		
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English			820 (0)
<u>PAKISTAN</u>			
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	150 (390)		
Karachi Domestic Service in English	9,050 (8,670)		
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	5,230 (5,690)		
<u>SINGAPORE</u>			
Singapore Domestic Service in English	1,890 (1,100)		
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English			270 (1,800)
Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English			0 (0)
<u>SRI LANKA</u>			
Colombo International Service in English	2,930 (3,230)		
Colombo Domestic Service in English	1,190 (500)		
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English			690 (0)
Colombo THE SUN in English			3,110 (110)
Colombo WEEKEND in English			0 (0)
<u>THAILAND</u>			
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	680 (0)		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	3,510 (3,470)		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Lao	2,170 (0)		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	510 (4,130)		
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	640 (4,180)		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	2,710 (3,420)		
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English			21,510 (29,790)
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English			4,460 (3,270)

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
<u>THAILAND (continued)</u>			
Bangkok KHLET LAP in Thai			0 (0)
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai			820 (1,020)
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai			1,890 (2,080)
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai			0 (1,360)
Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai			2,520 (5,350)
Bangkok PATINYA in Thai			0 (0)
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			1,940 (1,540)
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			500 (570)
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			230 (430)
Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English			20,680 (28,970)
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Vietnamese	560 (0)		
Bangkok NAED NA in Thai			330 (0)
<u>UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</u>			
Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh	3,630 (0)		
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	140 (180)		
Moscow in Cambodian to Kampuchea	0 (580)		
Moscow in Hindi to India	1,210 (0)		
Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	0 (250)		
Moscow in Lao to Laos	1,150 (0)		
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	950 (0)		
Moscow in Urdu to India	0 (0)		
Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan	0 (0)		
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Indonesian	0 (0)		
<u>VIETNAM</u>			
Hanoi International Service in Cambodian			0 (0)
Hanoi International Service in English			5,190 (6,440)
Hanoi International Service in Thai			1,060 (110)
Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese			48,160 (54,220)
Hanoi VNA in English			9,230 (16,340)
			0 (0)
			STAT
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			0 (6,590)
Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese			29,530 (26,030)
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			18,170 (17,980)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses are from preceding month

BANGKOK BUREAU COMMUNICATION REPORT

I. GENERAL

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II. STAFFING AND HOURS

The bureau's Communications Section is subordinate to the Chief Engineer and Deputy Bureau Chief, with the former concentrating on the areas of equipment maintenance and operating procedures and the latter on the areas of staffing and training--with considerable coordination between the two. The section's staff consists of a chief teletypist, an assistant, two shift supervisors and four teletypists.

Hours of operation of the bureau communications circuit are 0000 - 1730 GMT (0700 - 0030 local) daily. Occasionally the circuit is kept open beyond normal COB to pass high-precedence traffic. In addition, in case of an emergency, it can be reopened any time after closure by initiating a service message request to the switch

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The fact that most operators live a considerable distance from the bureau has necessitated a good deal of flexibility in arranging shifts and scheduling operators. The work shifts and number of operators at the present time are as follows:

Local Time

0700-1600 (2)

0800-1700 (1)

1200-2100 (1) (2 up to 3 days per week, depending on operators available)

1600-0100 (2)

III. EQUIPMENT

The bureau's communications room is equipped with 4 Extel model 305 ASR printers, including one spare, 7 Extel model AF-11R RO printers, 2 Extel KAF-11R printers, a Frederick model 1403A tape reader and a commercial Teletype model 32 ASR printer. One of the ASR printers is connected to the primary send circuit whereby the tape reader can be used as a spare in place of the Frederick 1403A tape reader.

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C. Third Altroute (Telex)

The Bureau's third altroute is via the international commercial Telex network. Until other bureau altroutes can be brought up or as long as the outage is not expected to be long lasting and there is not much priority traffic, the Telex would be used to send priority messages to Seoul Bureau, where they would be relayed to the addresses. However, in the event that Seoul could not relay Bangkok Bureau's traffic, the Telex could be used to contact any other bureau with Telex terminal or FBIS headquarters.

The Telex circuit is tested daily with Seoul Bureau to ensure that it can be used when needed. The Bangkok Bureau's Telex number is 82744; answerback code is FBIS BK TH.

VI. OUTAGE PROCEDURES

At the first sign of any problem on the primary communications circuit, the Chief Teletypist or Shift Supervisor quickly checks all in-house communications equipment to determine that it is functioning properly. If after 1 hour the problem has not been resolved, the Duty Editor will request the Chief Teletypist or Shift Supervisor to activate bureau altroute to Embassy CPU (RUEHBT). He will then send a brief operational immediate service message via the altroute to Headquarters, Okinawa, London and BBC advising them of the communications outage in our primary circuit and informing them that we are now transmitting on our altroute and that no changes in traffic procedure are necessary. He will also notify them when our primary circuit returns. Meanwhile, a second service message is sent to STAT advising them of the outage and requesting their assistance in resolving the problem. (These outage messages may be sent and the altroute activated sooner than 1 hour after the problem is first detected or later -- as much as an hour -- depending on the nature of the problem, the amount and priority of traffic being delayed, the time of day and other factors). If the problem occurs during Embassy hours of STAT operation, the bureau operator can also work directly with operator by STAT telephone or orderwire to try to understand and resolve it.

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The bureau's third altroute is activated by the bureau teletype operator on instructions from the editor by sending a brief service message via the telex system to Seoul Bureau requesting that they relay the message to Headquarters, Okinawa, London and the BBC advising them that Bangkok is filing traffic via Telex to Seoul Bureau for relay and that any necessary coordination traffic be confined to brief operational immediate service messages which should be routed to Seoul Bureau with instructions to pass to Bangkok Bureau via Telex.

VII. EMERGENCY ALERTS

When the bureau is closed, members of the bureau staff can be contacted by Headquarters and field bureaus through the Embassy. An operational immediate (NIACT IMMEDIATE) message addressed to RUEHBT/AMEMB BANGKOK with the flag "PASS TO FBIS" will be telephoned immediately upon receipt by the Communications Room personnel or the Marine Guard to members of the bureau staff (beginning with the Deputy Bureau Chief) at home.