

4 November 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

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

I. GENERAL

Steady and heavy rainfall from a series of tropical depressions in the South China Sea added to an already record rainy season rainfall to create the worst floods Bangkok has experienced since 1942. As a result, virtually all sidestreets were well under water--up to 4 feet in some areas--for much of the month. Large sections of the major roadways, such as Sukhumvit and Phetchaburi Roads were also badly affected. During the worst periods of flooding thus far, traffic (i.e. those cars with periscopes) was often backed up for several kilometers.

Bureau employees went with the flow, despite the many problems posed by the flooding. Although high waters on 19 October forced the embassy to close at 11:00 A.M., bureau operations continued relatively unabated due to the valiant efforts of bureau employees. Also on the 19th, however, waters had reached an alarming level at two of the embassy housing complexes, necessitating evacuation of residents to hotels for the duration. Among the refugees was bureau editor [redacted] who found himself at the luxurious New Imperial Hotel from 19 to 26 October while waiting for the waters around his apartment complex to recede. Other bureau employees, including many monitors and local employees, were kept constantly busy trying to keep the sea from reclaiming their houses. Some even had to resort to boats to get to work, giving a whole new nuance to the term "boat people". Nevertheless, although a liberal leave policy was instituted, it is a tribute to the dedication and efforts of bureau employees that operations were viturally unaffected. As of the end of the month, the situation has improved somewhat, although several towns in Thailand remain isolated due to flooding and there are fears that more flooding is to come before the onset of the dry season in about a month. STAT

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bomb explosion in a Rangoon mausoleum on 9 October which killed 19 people, including 4 South Korean cabinet ministers, caused the bureau to institute an open speaker watch on Rangoon radio. As expected, however, Rangoon has been relatively quiet on the incident. On 10 October the radio announced that a committee had been formed to investigate the explosion, and on 11 and 12 October the radio announced that two Koreans had been captured in connection with the incident. However, no further explanations or revelations concerning the incident have been forthcoming.

2. Indonesian and Thai government press reaction to the cancellation of President Reagan's November trips to those countries was generally understanding,

although some disappointment was expressed at the missed opportunity for ASEAN-U.S. dialouge.

3. On 1 October, Voice of Free Asia, a radio station operated by the Thai Foreign Ministry, began broadcasting weekly commentaries in Lao, Cambodian, and Vietnamese. These programs have been added to coverage.

B. Technical

1. Power failures of short duration continue in the [redacted] area, but have not affected operations. The antenna field is flooded, but all antennas and transmission lines are servicable.

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2. The bureau telex line, an old U.S. Army cable to GPO via JUSMAG, has been replaced with a new cable direct to GPO.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Buildings and Grounds

The bureau library has been partitioned, with the library and a newly created monitor's booth now in normal operation. New carpeting has been laid on the second floor hallway, engineer's office, and stairway. Renovations are continuing.

IV. VISITS

1. Fresh from his success with "The Fantasticks", [redacted] left for Madras and New Delhi on 26 October to conduct a recruiting trip with South Asian Unit Chief [redacted]. The quest is for an acceptable Tamil-Hindi-Urdu monitor to fill the recently approved new South Asian monitorial slot.

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2. [redacted] DC/Admin, and [redacted] visited the bureau 27-28 October as part of their Far East orientation trip.

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V. Community Activities

The Bangkok Music Society's presentation of "The Fantasticks", directed by Deputy Chief [redacted] played to packed houses from 20-22 October at Bangkok's Bhirasri Institute.

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[Redacted signature box]

Chief, Bangkok Bureau

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1983

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	517,790 (515,610)
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	237,250 (232,290)
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,357 (1,350)

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	15,390 (15,795) min.	20,205 (20,205) min.	232.23 (232.23) issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	13,490 (15,040)		
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English			0 (720)
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English			0 (0)
Sydney THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English			0 (0)

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	290 (750)		
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	1,460 (1,870)		
Dhaka BSS in English		2,020 (1,780)	
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali			0 (0)
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English			110 (810)

BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	10,120 (3,800)		
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese			0 (0)
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese			0 (100)
Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese			0 (0)
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			1,170 (340)

CHINA

Beijing in Bengali to India and Bangladesh	0 (0)		
Beijing in Burmese to Burma	90 (0)		
Beijing in Cambodian to Kampuchea	580 (2,110)		
Beijing in Hindi to India	0 (0)		
Beijing in Indonesian to Indonesia	0 (0)		
Beijing in Lao to Laos	830 (0)		
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	0 (340)		
Beijing in Thai to Thailand	0 (0)		
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	0 (0)		

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
<u>CLANDESTINE</u>			
(Clandestine) Radio Kawthulay in Burmese to Burma	2,770 (5,480)		
(Clandestine) Radio Kawthulay in English to Burma	0 (0)		
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	27,370 (30,750)		
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	0 (7,420)		
(Clandestine) Voice of The National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	4,610 (2,870)		
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Burma in Burmese	2,440 (1,390)		
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Malaya in Malay	1,440 (1,530)		
<u>HONG KONG</u>			
Hong Kong AFP in English		32,470 (42,470)	
<u>INDIA</u>			
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	3,980 (2,870)		
Delhi Domestic Service in English	31,920 (29,210)		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		490 (140)	
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			0 (1,580)
Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English			0 (630)
Delhi PATRIOT in English			230 (1,720)
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English			900 (1,140)
Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali			0 (0)
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English			930 (1,400)
Madras THE HINDU in English			0 (0)
Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi	60 (0)		
<u>INDONESIA</u>			
Jakarta International Service in English	2,850 (2,210)		
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	5,650 (6,940)		
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian			2,220 (0)
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English			300 (770)
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			0 (420)
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian			0 (0)
Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian			0 (0)
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			2,190 (0)
Jakarta Domestic Service in English	300 (300)		
<u>KAMPUCHEA</u>			
Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	20,690 (32,440)		
Phnom Penh SPK in English		8,370 (4,830)	
Phnom Penh SPK in French		18,620 (12,850)	

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>	<u>STAT</u>
	0 (0)			
	0 (0)			
<u>LAOS</u>				
Vientiane Domestic Service in Leo	33,070 (15,360)			
Vientiane KFL in English		9,260 (14,140)		STAT
		0 (0)		
		0 (0)		
		0 (0)		
Vientiane PASASON in Leo			0 (0)	
<u>MALAYSIA</u>				
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	10,070 (6,170)			
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	3,050 (3,810)			
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	0 (0)			
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English			10,400 (2,020)	
Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English			0 (0)	
<u>NEPAL</u>				
Katmandu External Service in English	360 (610)			
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English			0 (620)	
<u>PAKISTAN</u>				
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	900 (900)			
Karachi Domestic Service in English	9,490 (9,770)			
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	10,970 (15,750)			
<u>SINGAPORE</u>				
Singapore Domestic Service in English	4,180 (2,090)			
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English			1,440 (1,090)	
Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English			0 (0)	
<u>SRI LANKA</u>				
Colombo International Service in English	3,750 (1,210)			
Colombo Domestic Service in English	270 (2,710)			
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English			1,420 (610)	
Colombo THE SUN in English			910 (3,840)	
Colombo WEEKEND in English			120 (0)	

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
<u>THAILAND</u>			
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	6,350 (1,830)		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	3,450 (2,430)		
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	2,480 (1,750)		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	2,750 (12,570)		
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English			42,520 (23,870)
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English			2,700 (5,340)
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai			0 (0)
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai			2,820 (2,410)
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPPADA in Thai			2,380 (0)
Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai			3,360 (4,870)
Bangkok PATINYA in Thai			1,850 (0)
Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai			0 (0)
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			4,600 (530)
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			0 (0)
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			2,540 (0)
Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English			21,290 (20,420)
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	2,660 (0)		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Lao	2,770 (0)		
<u>UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</u>			
Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh	0 (0)		
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	0 (0)		
Moscow in Cambodian to Kampuchea	0 (0)		
Moscow in Hindi to India	0 (1,170)		
Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	0 (0)		
Moscow in Lao to Laos	40 (0)		
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	0 (0)		
Moscow in Urdu to India	0 (0)		
Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan	0 (0)		
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Indonesian to Indonesia	0 (0)		
<u>VIETNAM</u>			
Hanoi International Service in Cambodian	0 (0)		
Hanoi International Service in English	7,030 (8,050)		
Hanoi International Service in Thai	3,300 (1,720)		
Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	59,220 (78,090)		
Hanoi VNA in English		1,030 (7,920)	
		0 (0)	
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			21,910 (25,410)
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			5,290 (2,440)
Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese			14,570 (13,730)
Hanoi International Service in Vietnamese	260 (0)		

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NOTE: Figures in parentheses are from preceding month