

2 January 1984
MJN 8401

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--December 1983

I. GENERAL

The bombing of the American Embassy in Kuwait kept the issue of security at the forefront of attention in Amman again in December. Immediately after the Kuwait bomb attack, the Jordanian Public Security Forces temporarily reinforced the guard force around the Embassy, while the Embassy itself further reinforced its system of physical barriers against a vehicular bomb.

Two incidents during the month involved Jordan Bureau directly and served as uncomfortably close reminders of the need for caution in every aspect of life. In the early hours of 24 December, editor [redacted] returned home from the evening shift and walked into his kitchen to find a prowler apparently trying to force an entry through a window. [redacted] stood his ground--frozen to the spot, by some accounts--and frightened the prowler away. A check by the police, who were called in immediately, turned up nothing. The Bureau is looking into installation of window grills for [redacted] ground floor apartment.

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On 27 December, [redacted] was involved in a second incident when, toward the end of the evening shift, a telephone caller to the Bureau said that there was a bomb in the Embassy due to go off within a few minutes. It was not clear whether the caller meant the Chancery or the Embassy Annex, [redacted] he did not stay on the line long enough to clarify the point. [redacted] notified the Marine Security Guard, had the bomb alert tape transmitted, and evacuated the building along with the monitor and teletype operator on duty at the time. The building and grounds were checked by security personnel, but no bomb was found.

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Finally, reports of the shooting of two low level officials of the Jordanian embassy in Madrid suggested that Middle Eastern terrorists might be finding it difficult to get at more senior personnel and are therefore selecting less well protected targets instead. The lesson was noted by Bureau personnel.

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II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

1. On 4 December, Damascus radio reported that Syrian forces had downed three U.S. fighter planes engaged in a raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon and that one of the pilots had been detained. In its 1830 GMT newscast that evening, Damascus television carried a film clip showing one of the downed aircraft. According to media reports, Syria demands the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Lebanon as its condition for the captured pilot's release. At the end of the month, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, arrived in Syria to meet with the pilot and to discuss his release with Syrian officials. Syrian media carried numerous reports on Jackson's visit and talks with various officials, and on the evening of the 31st Damascus television aired a film report on his meeting with the pilot. Both SANA and the television quoted the pilot's remarks on the "good treatment" he is receiving at the hands of his Syrian captors. The Bureau filed several reports and VSL's on the downing of the aircraft and the Jackson mission to Syria.

2. Reaction to the end of the siege of 'Arafat loyalists in Tripoli with their sea-borne departure, and 'Arafat's subsequent meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak made up a large part of the Bureau file during the month. Predictably, Syrian media have kept up a steady stream of denunciations and calls for 'Arafat's resignation.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Monitor [redacted] has been accepted for a position as a political specialist with the Embassy Political Section. His transfer date is being coordinated between the Embassy and the Bureau and is expected to be effective in mid-February. STAT

2. Monitor [redacted] resignation became effective on 24 December. STAT

3. A second monitor candidate, [redacted] began processing during December. The first candidate, [redacted] who began processing toward the end of November, should be on board by mid-January. We hope to have [redacted] aboard before [redacted] departure. STAT
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4. An assistant technician candidate, [redacted] began processing during December. [redacted] will work on a part-time contract.

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B. Building and Grounds

The Embassy has further reinforced its barriers against a vehicular bomb attack of the type used in Kuwait and Beirut. During December a row of "planters," set atop large blocks of concrete imbedded in the sidewalk, was added to the front of the Embassy to reinforce the row of concrete-filled pipes imbedded in the curb last spring, following the Beirut Embassy attack. The GSO promises geraniums by next spring. In a less decorative touch, rows of gravel-filled oil drums were added to the concrete-filled pipes imbedded in the sidewalks and roadway of the now closed street between the back of the Embassy Chancery [redacted]. The drums are all connected to one another and to the pipe barrier with heavy guage wire rope.

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IV. VISITS

To the Bureau:

[redacted] FBIS Planning Officer for Resource Allocation, 6-9 December, for familiarization.

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[redacted]

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Chief, Jordan Bureau

ATT: Production Report

JORDAN BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1983

TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 264,898
 TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 96,048
 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 752

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: BROAD-CASTS PRESS AGENCIES PUBLI-CATIONS
 (MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK) 6540 19815 68

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
 (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

BAHRAIN			
MANAMA MANA IN			
ARABIC			0
CLANDESTINE (IRAN AND IRAQ)			
(CLANDESTINE) VOICE OF IRAQI KURDISTAN IN			
ARABIC			0
(CLANDESTINE) VOICE OF IRAQI REVOLUTION IN			
ARABIC			0
FRANCE			
PARIS RADIO MONTE CARLO IN			
ARABIC	25500		
PARIS AL-MUSTADBAL IN			
ARABIC			2100
PARIS AL-WATAN AL-ARABI IN			
ARABIC			3740
IRAQ			
BAGHDAD VOICE OF THE MASSES IN			
ARABIC	3370		
BAGHDAD VOICE OF PLO IN			
ARABIC	18010		
BAGHDAD DOMESTIC SERVICE IN			
ARABIC	6530		
BAGHDAD INA IN			
ARABIC		27800	
BAGHDAD INA IN			
ENGLISH			0
BAGHDAD AL-JUMHURIYAH IN			
ARABIC			500
BAGHDAD AM-THAWAH IN			
ARABIC			370
ISRAEL			
JERUSALEM IN			
ARABIC TO THE ARAB WORLD	2300		
JERUSALEM AL-PAK IN			
ARABIC			
JERUSALEM AL-MITHAR IN			
ARABIC			0
JERUSALEM AL-RAUD IN			
ARABIC			570
JERUSALEM ASH-SHA'IB IN			
ARABIC			0
JERUSALEM AT-TALI'AH IN			
ARABIC			0
JORDAN			
AMMAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN			
ARABIC	32610		
AMMAN TELEVISION SERVICE IN			
ARABIC			3500
AMMAN TELEVISION SERVICE IN			
ENGLISH			3000
AMMAN PETRA-INA IN			
ARABIC		3130	
AMMAN AD-DUSTUR IN			
ARABIC			9590
AMMAN AKHBAR AL-USDU' IN			
ARABIC			800
AMMAN AR-RAY' IN			
ARABIC			8100
AMMAN JERUSALEM STAR IN			
ENGLISH			770
AMMAN JORDAN TIMES IN			
ENGLISH			3710
AMMAN SAHAT ASH-SHA'IB IN			
ARABIC			10020
LEBANON			
MARJ 'UYUN LEBANON VOICE OF HOPE IN			
ARABIC	310		
MARJ 'UYUN LEBANON VOICE OF HOPE IN			
ENGLISH			0
SUDAN			
KHARTOUM SUNA IN			
ARABIC		5030	
KHARTOUM SUNA IN			
ENGLISH			3710
SYRIA			
DAMASCUS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN			
ARABIC	58560		
DAMASCUS TELEVISION SERVICE IN			
ARABIC	12690		
DAMASCUS SAHA IN			
ARABIC			12070
UNITED KINGDOM			
LONDON REUTER IN			
ENGLISH			1560