

4 December 1983
MJN 8329

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

I. GENERAL

November was another month of heightened security awareness at the American Mission in Amman following the discovery of a time bomb outside the residence of one of the Mission's American staff on the 10th. Alert neighbors are said to have informed the police of the suspicious object, and the authorities disarmed the device before an explosion occurred. While the exact location of the bomb left some question as to its specific target--if any--the incident once again underscored the fact that no one can afford to be complacent about security.

On the 12th the Interior Ministry reported the discovery of another explosive device in the neighborhood of the Third Circle of Jabal Amman, in the same neighborhood as the American Embassy, but some distance from it. This device, consisting of 40 kilograms of TNT attached to a butane gas cylinder and found in a parked rental car, was also rendered harmless. Jordanian media suggested that Syria was behind the wave of incidents, while Syrian media found the efficiency of the Jordanian police too good to be believed and suggested that the whole thing was a provocation cooked up by King Husayn and his government.

Meanwhile, the truck-mounted machinegun and crew that stood guard in the street between the Embassy and the Bureau in September and disappeared in October reappeared in November, parked at a more discreet distance. ✓

II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

As a result of events in Syria and Lebanon, the Bureau kept Damascus radio on open-speaker watch throughout most of November. Israeli raids on Syrian controlled areas of Lebanon, the Syrian

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downing of an Israeli plane, the Syrian call up of reserves on the 7th, and the fighting in and around Tripoli between 'Arafat loyalists and Syrian backed dissidents within Fatah added up to an especially tense month in the Middle East and generated a large volume of copy. The Syrian call up of reserves, broadcast as a special message on Damascus radio, once again raised the question of lateral dissemination of such messages, with the result that BBC has now been added as a recipient of all special or coded messages.

Syrian President Al-Asad's illness and admission to a hospital on the 13th, reportedly with appendicitis, generated many FYI's on media behavior and noting his absence from various functions. His absence from public view, in spite of the explanation, prompted every imaginable rumor on the state of his physical and political health, including a report that he had died. Al-Asad's public reappearance on the 27th, carried on Damascus television, was the occasion for dancing in the streets of the capital and other manifestations of national rejoicing, according to Syrian media, as well as the end of two weeks of rumors and speculation.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. All Bureau foreign national employees were converted to the new FBN scale effective 27 November. In spite of Embassy nervousness about the new system during the long lead up to its implementation, there was no adverse reaction when the effective date was announced or when the personnel actions making the conversion were submitted to the Embassy on 20 November. ✓

2. Implementation of the FBN system, which finally resolved in FBIS' favor the long-disputed question of downgrading certain Bureau position in accordance with recommendations made by the Department of State in 1979, also provided the opportunity for granting a long overdue PSI. Communications supervisor [] received the PSI due him on 20 March; the personnel action was made retroactive to that date. ✓

3. Monitor [] submitted his letter of resignation during the month, to be effective 24 December. The Bureau was testing and interviewing applicants throughout November for an existing vacancy, and one candidate was put into processing. The Bureau will continue to test and consider applicants to replace [] during December.

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IV. VISITS

To the Bureau

1. Regional Engineer [redacted] 14-17 November, for a routine inspection of equipment and facilities.

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2. [redacted] head of the Department of Communications at the University of Delaware, 27 November, for discussions with the chief monitor on broadcasting in the Middle East.

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Chief, Jordan Bureau

JORDAN BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1983

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 329,330
 TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 113,970
 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 1,823

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: BROAD- PRESS PUBLI-
 CASTS AGENCIES CATIONS
 (MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK) 6540 19815 50

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

BAHRAIN			
BAHRAIN STAR 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	44070		
PARIS AL-MUSTAQBAL IN			
ARABIC			3050
PARIS AL-WATAN AL-ARABI IN			
ARABIC			4950
IRAQ			
BAGHDAD VOICE OF THE MASSES IN			
ARABIC	8940		
BAGHDAD VOICE OF PLO IN			
ARABIC	33670		
BAGHDAD DOMESTIC SERVICE IN			
ARABIC	15530		
BAGHDAD INA IN			
ARABIC		21220	
BAGHDAD STAR IN			
ENGLISH		420	
BAGHDAD AL-JUMHURIYAH IN			
ARABIC			0
BAGHDAD ATH-TAARAH IN			
ARABIC			0
ISRAEL			
JERUSALEM IN			
JERUSALEM TO THE ARAB WORLD	2050		
JERUSALEM AL-FARJ IN			
ARABIC			600
JERUSALEM AL-NITHAQ IN			
ARABIC			0
JERUSALEM AL-BUDS IN			
ARABIC			200
JERUSALEM ASH-SHA'B IN			
ARABIC			200
JERUSALEM AT-TALI'AH IN			
ARABIC			500
JORDAN			
AMMAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN			
ARABIC	23070		
AMMAN TELEVISION SERVICE IN			
ARABIC	6460		
AMMAN TELEVISION SERVICE IN			
ENGLISH	360		
AMMAN PETRA-JNA IN			
ARABIC		2410	
AMMAN AD-BUSTUR IN			
ARABIC			6020
AMMAN AKH'AR AL-USBU' IN			
ARABIC			520
AMMAN AR-RAY' IN			
ARABIC			7670
AMMAN JERUSALEM STAR IN			
ENGLISH			0
AMMAN JORDAN TIMES IN			
ENGLISH			2200
AMMAN SAMT ASH-SHA'B IN			
ARABIC			1260
LEBANON			
MARJ 'UYUN LEBANON VOICE OF HOPE IN			
ARABIC	2430		
MARJ 'UYUN LEBANON VOICE OF HOPE IN			
ENGLISH			0
SUDAN			
KHARTOUM SUNA IN			
ARABIC		14170	
KHARTOUM SUNA IN			
ENGLISH		8580	
SYRIA			
DAMASCUS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN			
ARABIC	67860		
DAMASCUS TELEVISION SERVICE IN			
ARABIC	29010		
DAMASCUS SANA IN			
ARABIC			17190
UNITED KINGDOM			
LONDON REUTER IN			
ENGLISH			3400