

3 April 1983
MJN 8307

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

I. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. The Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference, held in New Delhi 7-11 March, generated a large volume of processing for Jordan Bureau. King Husayn delivered two speeches at the session, one as the spokesman for the Asian Group within the Nonaligned Movement and another as the Jordanian head of state; both were texted by Bureau monitors. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad gave a long and important speech on the Middle East situation, as did the PLO's Yasir 'Arafat. The Bureau also texted the Iraqi vice president's speech and a lengthy report on the Sudanese first vice president's speech.

2. The Bureau has begun to reactivate its cruising activities after a long period during which short staffing has required cruising monitor [redacted] to devote most of his time to regular monitoring operations. [redacted] is once again spending at least one full shift per week in the cruising room, with junior monitor [redacted] sitting in with him to learn the cruising trade. [redacted] will eventually take over much of the cruising burden [redacted] will continue to devote more time to monitoring operations, serving as shift supervisor as necessary. STAT
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3. In preparation for the advent of MIDAS Phase I, Deputy Chief [redacted] and senior editor [redacted] have been actively reviewing the handling of capitalization by monitors, editors and teletype operators. New guidance on capitalization, based on current Daily Report usage, has been issued, and a system for spot-checking the accuracy of "pinkie coding" by the teleops has been established. Some questions regarding Daily Report usage have been identified, and these will be coordinated with Headquarters in the near future. Bureau technician [redacted] is working on modification of the Bureau's Extel RO's to show coding on all Bureau copy. This will allow a more thorough review of coding by the operators than is possible under the present system of rerunning selected tapes on the already modified ASR's. STAT

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B. Technical

The INTERNET Survey team, [redacted] of ED and Rockwell engineer [redacted], visited Amman from 16 to 20 March. Four prospective roof-top sites for a dish antenna were considered during the visit, all of which offered sufficient space and appropriate look angles. Although the roof of the Embassy itself is already too cluttered to be considered as a prospective site, the Bureau, in the Embassy annex, the USIS Cultural Center, an office building partially occupied by the AID mission, and the Embassy warehouse were all studied as possible alternatives. At this early stage, at least, the Bureau roof appears to offer the best prospective site, with assured and easy access, secure U.S. Government tenancy and control, and no need for a complicated communications link.

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II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Bureau teletype operator [redacted] received a PSI effective 20 March. Another PSI, for teletype supervisor [redacted] due on the same date, has been held up pending resolution of questions surrounding implementation of the FBIS classification and compensation system. [redacted] is one of two Bureau employees recommended for downgrading under the Department of State classification survey of 1979.

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B. Building and Grounds

A new refrigerator/freezer unit, contracted for under the Bureau renovation project begun last fall, was finally released from customs warehouse and delivered to the Bureau in March.

III. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Former President Carter paid a visit to Amman on 13 and 14 March as one of the stops on a tour of several Arab states and Israel. As a native of Georgia, senior editor [redacted] was chosen to accompany Carter's secretary to lunch and for an afternoon of shopping. Although it was clear from [redacted] accent that she didn't hail from somewhere just outside of Plains, she reports that she and her guest spent an enjoyable afternoon together.

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[redacted]
Bureau Chief