



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



MSK-5017
2 October 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - September 1985

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Korean monitor [redacted] reviewing Pyongyang television coverage of 15 August Liberation Day activities, noticed a sequence of shots of Kim Il-song which may indicate a health problem. During live coverage of a mass gymnastics display held at Kim Il-song stadium in honor of Liberation Day and visiting Soviet Politburo member Geydar Aliyev, the telecast repeatedly cut from scenes of gymnasts performing on the stadium floor to Kim and Soviet guests applauding. A series of four cuts shows obvious concern by North Korean civilian and military personnel with Kim's lower leg and the back of his trousers, and possibly the chair he was sitting on. The final cut in the sequence shows a man in uniform forcefully adjusting Kim's trousers from behind, after the chair has been removed. Many Embassy officers, and a visiting medical officer from Tokyo, have viewed the tape, and the tentative if unscientific local analysis is that a urine collection device of some kind may have malfunctioned. A further tentative conclusion is that the Pyongyang television technician who allowed this intriguing sequence to be broadcast may be looking for work. The tape has been forwarded to Headquarters. Embassy officers also passed a copy of the tape to South Korean analysts.

2. The major topic in Korea during September was the exchange of family visitation and art troupe groups under the auspices of the DPRK and ROK Red Cross societies. Preparations for the exchanges began early in the month, with visits by advance teams from both sides, and culminated in the 20-23 September visits to Seoul and Pyongyang. The preparations and the visits generated a considerable amount of copy. Also, the aftermath of the visits has attracted the interest of the Embassy and AG, since Pyongyang has reacted strongly to criticism by the South concerning some aspects of the visits.

*Direct story
even if chair
nothing to it!
B.*

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3. In the wake of the abolition of the Bureau's midnight shift on 1 September, editors and monitors have held a series of meetings to evaluate and smooth out revised operating procedures and the new monitorial work schedule. The new system is now running smoothly and monitorial productivity has shown a measurable increase. Evaluation continues, and Bureau procedures will be refined as necessary. One benefit that has quickly become apparent is increased flexibility in adjusting staffing in response to ad hoc developments. It is now much easier to move monitors from one shift to another on short notice in anticipation of events than it was when one monitor was always locked into the midnight shift.

B. Communications

The Bureau experienced an unusual period of communications outages during the first two weeks of September, affecting both the primary and backup circuits. The primary Mode II circuit was out from 29 August until 10 September, due to equipment failure within TCU. Parts had to be shipped from the U.S., delaying repairs for several days. The backup Mode V circuit, which normally is very reliable, went out on 6 September due to flooding of cable bays at the U.S. Army communications center in Yongsan. After fits and starts for several days, the Mode V circuit was restored on 9 September. The Bureau telexed urgent material to Okinawa Bureau for onward relay during the outages. This apparently was the first occasion in the Bureau's history in which both the primary and backup circuits were out simultaneously for an extended period.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. A new Embassy compensation plan for FSN employees, approved by the Department of State retroactive to 26 May, has not yet been implemented. At issue are employees in FSN grades 1-7, whose pay has been frozen since 1982 and who receive no salary increase in the newly approved schedule. The Embassy appealed the continuing freeze on salaries for these employees, to no avail. A further appeal is being considered, but most Embassy officers do not think it will be successful. PMCD has approved a new salary schedule for the Bureau, with no increase for employees in grades FBN 1-7. We are now waiting for Embassy action before implementing the new schedule.

2. Deputy Chief [redacted] was in the U.S. from 13-24 September on emergency visitation leave, following the death of his father. Okinawa Bureau editor [redacted] arrived on the 16th to fill in during [redacted] absence and [redacted] during maternity leave by Senior Editor [redacted]

3. Korean monitor [redacted] transferred to USIS effective 15 September. A replacement has been selected and employment processing is underway.

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B. Building & Grounds

STAT Following coordination with Okinawa Bureau Engineer [redacted] and negotiations with GSO, renovation of the Bureau's operations area is scheduled to begin on 5 October. One wall will be moved, and two others reconfigured slightly to make better use of existing space. When the project is completed the editorial and communications rooms will be larger and organized more efficiently. The main radio room will be slightly smaller, but equipment racks in the room will be reconfigured to compensate. A new Bureau floor plan will be forwarded when the work is completed.

III. VISITS

1. Two IG inspectors were in Seoul from 25-27 September as part of the IG inspection of FBIS. They interviewed most U.S. staff employees and an appropriate sample of local employees.

STAT 2. CRW training officer [redacted] was in Seoul from 1-14 September to provide training in the use of IBM Personal Computers. Selected employees were trained in the basics of Multimate and Lotus programs. The Bureau is now using the computers to assist in preparation of monthly production statistics and personnel reports, and computer applications in other areas are being developed.

STAT 3. Chinese unit chief [redacted] participated in the FBIS foreign national orientation program in Washington from 13-17 September.

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[redacted]
Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

Seoul Bureau Production Report for September 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	642730
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	137490
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1589

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	13685.00 min.	5510.00 min.	104.46 issues

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

CHINA

Beijing International service in Korean to Korea	2920	
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	1680	
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	21500	
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	14620	
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	8500	
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	12750	
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	19110	
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	2210	
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	1050	
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese		5400
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese		6600
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese		4620
Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in Chinese		2550
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese		14500
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese		5140
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese		15570

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in Chinese			6480
CLANDESTINE (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea	20400		
KOREA (NORTH)			
Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	169870		
Pyongyang Domestic Television Service in Korean	0		
Pyongyang KCNA in English		132200	
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			21750
KOREA (SOUTH)			
Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	8080		
Seoul YONHAP in English		37740	
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			7350
Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in Korean			600
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			1450
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			950
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			600
Seoul SINTONG-A in Korean			0
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			51150
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			32540
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			4400
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow International Service in Korean	8450		