

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-6004
3 April 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director. Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Hong Kong Bureau--March 1986

I. GENERAL

A. While output during the month was again very high (1.37 million publishable words), there was not the pressure or excitement of the previous month. Someone (no doubt an editor who had just completed 13 takes of HONGQI on improving one's "party style") offered the opinion that the work this month had been just like the weather: grey, dreary, and with no end in sight. The sun has not been seen here since 3 days after Marcos fled Manila; Kostan has been asked to bring back confirmation that it is still out there somewhere.

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C. There has been a sudden spurt in the cost of apartment rentals in the mid-levels, in part due to the government's relaxation of some rent controls. Lease renewal increases are now ranging from 30 to as much as 100 percent for some apartments. As a consequence, with encouragement from Gramm-Rudman, [redacted] will remain in her present apartment and the lease on my apartment (the most expensive of the lot) will not be renewed. A less costly 2-bedroom flat on Conduit Road, previously leased by the Consulate

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but being relinquished as people are moved to the Shousan Hills building, will be taken over temporarily by the bureau. Until the Bonham Road building is ready early next year, this unit will be used by [] with [] going into the flat being vacated by the []. On the 12th, [] and I, along with other section and agency chiefs, had a close look at the Bonham Road building and one of its model flats. Some rooms are small by U.S. standards, but overall we felt the rumors and complaints about the inadequacy of the building to be exaggerated.

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D. [] sat-in as an observer at the State-sponsored China Reporting Conference held at the Consulate 10-11 March. These conferences, held twice yearly and alternating between Beijing and Hong Kong, enable State officers, as well as other select persons involved in China reporting, to get together to discuss current developments and issues.

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E. Consul General Levin will be replaced this summer by Donald Anderson. The latter served in Hong Kong as a younger Foreign Service officer and has considerable experience in Chinese affairs. Levin's next assignment has not been announced.

A good man - was head of HK pol. sect. & later began Shing

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Though interest in the Philippines and its new government remained high, the bureau was relieved to see its coverage and reporting return to more manageable levels during the month. Unfortunately, radio coverage, which had been severely disrupted by the late-February crisis, has yet to return to normal. Some stations are still not broadcasting, or are doing so at reduced power. This, coupled with the usual poor reception experienced this time of year, has left the bureau with very little that can be monitored: FEBC, a mid-day cast by local station Dagupan Radio, and an Ilocano-language station in central Luzon, the latter heard intermittently. Radios DZFM and Ng Bayan, which surfaced after the crisis on old MBS frequencies, have been unmonitorable since early March. During a short visit to Manila a week ago, Tagalog monitor [] talked to the former head of the MBS broadcast facilities. She was told that they might "resume" broadcasting on shortwave, but that they were still having technical difficulties due to the damage last month.

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2. The absence of monitorable Philippine radios was one problem during the month; keeping up with all the newspaper changes was another. Several papers, previously pro-Marcos, took on new names and new political orientations as employees or supporters of the new government took control, while previously banned papers reappeared. BULLETIN TODAY reverted to using its pre-martial law name of MANILA BULLETIN; METRO MANILA TIMES ceased publishing altogether, though its sister afternoon publication, THE MANILA EVENING POST, expanded and revitalized as of 12 March; employees of DAILY EXPRESS took control of that paper, renaming it THE NEW

PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS (this paper also has a new separate Sunday edition); and THE MANILA TIMES, a paper closed down by the Marcos administration in 1972, resumed publication on 18 March (it also puts out a separate Sunday edition). We also started receiving copies of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, an independent paper which is part of the MR. & MRS. Publishing Company. The TIMES JOURNAL, another pro-Marcos paper, has announced that it, too, will go out of business. Keeping track of all these changes has left our editors, and no doubt MOD, wondering if this a new variation of "Who's on first and What's on second."

3. As the new Philippine Government sought to consolidate its power and gain control of events, the bureau grappled with the question of future staffing and coverage, anticipating eventual approval of a remote commercial phone hookup to the Philippines. [redacted] returned to Okinawa temporarily and is scheduled to come back to Hong Kong for a permanent assignment at the end of this week, giving the bureau two regular monitors. With Headquarters' approval, we also started looking into the possibility of hiring an additional part-time contract monitor. Several applicants were tested and one proved capable, but turned out to be a naturalized American which complicated any hiring plan. In any event, with the likelihood of a Cebu remote we are more interested in finding someone with Cebuano capability if possible. We have also been looking for an Ilocano speaker, but of two prospects considered so far neither had a sufficient command of English. We are continuing our search for someone with either of these dialects, but thus far in a relatively low-key fashion. If unsuccessful, we may resort to a more open recruitment effort.

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4. With Bangkok's AFP connection finally complete, we relinquished coverage of South Asia, Southeast Asia and other countries in Bangkok's area of responsibility. We retain responsibility for the Philippines, New Zealand, China, Taiwan, the Koreas, Japan and the South Pacific. Bangkok will cover our areas from our evening closure time until they close, and on Saturday and Sunday evenings. We will continue backstopping other AFP bureaus during their closed hours per previous arrangements.

5. The local XINHUA office informed us early in the month that as of 1 April, China News Service (CNS) items would no longer be transmitted on their circuit. A separate contract with CNS, with an additional fax printer and a separate telephone line, would be necessary. With these upcoming changes, we have had to negotiate new contracts with both news services. We are still awaiting final word on this.

6. In China itself, March saw several noteworthy developments: a plenary session of the NPC (largely covered by Okinawa, including television); the visit by Soviet First Deputy Premier Ivan Arkhipov; and more appearances by Deng Xiaoping, temporarily putting to rest the rumors of his ill health or demise. We also started covering a new weekly business supplement to the English-language CHINA DAILY.

B. Communications:

Like Bangkok and Seoul, we experienced many commo difficulties during the month, most of them related to computer problems at Clark. Some of these were apparently linked to breaking-in problems with the new computer installed there during the month. Our most serious outage, however, was due to an unidentified problem in the autodin system between Clark and Guam. This problem, which lasted off and on from 4-7 March, mainly affected incoming traffic. Eventually, traffic was sent via an altroute. Another lengthy delay in traffic occurred on 19-20 March, resulting at one point in the Wire having to contact the bureau to find out why they were receiving no traffic from us, including a response to an 00 query. Still later in the month we experienced several days where numerous multitake items from Hqs and Okinawa (Wire and XINHUA logs) arrived here incomplete. We are still not sure we received all traffic for us during those 2 days.

C. Lateral Service

1. The Malaysian Commission (equivalent to Consulate) in Hong Kong sought the bureau's assistance in renewing a subscription to the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

2. At the request of the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, the bureau wirefiled the full text of the 2 March ASIA WEEK interview with President Ershad. The ASIA WEEK version available in Bangladesh had been censored and the embassy wanted to see what passages had been deleted. The bureau sent the item to regular consumers as well as the embassy.

3. Further refinements were made during the month in the delivery of Vietnamese papers to Bangkok Bureau and NEAD. With Bangkok's success in obtaining NHAN DAN and other papers directly, we have started sending those copies which are transhipped through Hong Kong (previously posted to Bangkok) to NEAD, using our daily Federal Express shipments. We are also seeking to obtain for NEAD, subscriptions to SAIGON and HANOI MOI.

D. Technical

1. We encountered a further delay this month in getting our new microwave backup system up and running. Following some initial difficulties (a problem traced to carelessness by technicians from CSL, the company installing the terminal equipment, a temporary telephone line outage, and a defective redundancy card in the St. John's terminal), it was then found that the same card in the Mt. Butler terminal was also defective, with no spare available. Further testing will resume as soon as replacement cards arrive from the States.

2. We have purchased an inexpensive portable computer to be used in conjunction with our microwave backup system. It will permit our technicians to monitor and test the status of the system at all times. When not being used for this purpose, we intend to let the unit be used for our growing cadre of computer-interested

monitors, both for translations and building of Chinese reference files.

3. A programmable Sony 2001-D receiver, which we recently purchased, has been shipped to our Beijing contractor, for a trial. The unit is much smaller and more sensitive than the old Sony 330's, plus easy to operate once you get the programming all down. If it is felt to be an improvement, we will obtain a second one to replace the other Sony 330 now in use.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel:

1. Six of our commo operators [redacted] were presented with Certificates of Merit and Distinction, plus monetary awards, at a 6 March ceremony in the bureau chief's office. The awards were in recognition of the dedication and hard work shown by these six employees over the past year as the unit's workload and involvement in fast-breaking developments increased dramatically. The recipients pooled some of their award money to generously host a dim sum luncheon for all bureau employees.

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2. Three bureau employees [redacted] received length-of-service awards during the month. [redacted] was for 10 years, [redacted] and [redacted] for 25 years.

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3. New admin assistant [redacted] formerly a secretary for the Foreign Commercial Service, began working for the bureau effective 17 March.

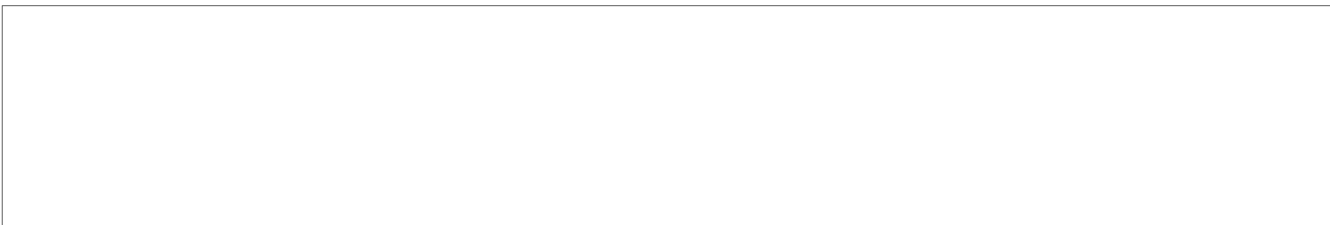
4. The Consulate's long-delayed Provident Fund for local employees has been resubmitted to the State Department for approval. Hopes are high that the Department, the Consulate, and the Foreign National Association have finally reached a consensus on a plan. The Provident Fund is not the only employee benefit that has been delayed by the Department. A pay raise proposal for local employees, submitted in December, is yet to be approved.

B. Buildings & Grounds:

1. In late March we held a ribbon-cutting (yellow of course) ceremony to mark the opening of the "Cory Aquino Philippines unit monitoring room." The room is designed to comfortably accommodate our two monitors, a third if necessary, and has all equipment they require to remotely tune and record programs.

hmm? Bit premature, isn't it?

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IV. VISITS

A. [] DIA Naval systems analyst from Washington, called on the bureau on 11 March while on TDY with the Defense Liaison Office. [] said he was a big user of FBIS videotapes, especially those on the Chinese navy.

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B. [] departed the bureau on the 28th, taking personal leave in Japan and Iowa before representing the bureau at the annual bureau chiefs conference.

C. [] editorial trainee, visited the bureau on 30 March while in Hong Kong on personal leave following completion of her training TDY at Okinawa.

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Bureau Chief

Attachment: Monthly Production Report

cc: Original and 3 - Hqs
1 - C/Bangkok
1 - C/Seoul
1 - C/Okinawa

HONG KONG BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH

1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	1374390
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	106790
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	2275

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	4640	10140	288
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)			

CHINA			
BEIJING INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN TAGALOG	6650		
BEIJING TELEVISION SERVICE IN MANDARIN	900		
CHANGSHA HUNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	8230		
CHENGDU SICHUAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	10880		
GUANGZHOU GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	11830		
GUIYANG GUIZHOU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7110		
HAIKOU HAINAN ISLAND SERVICE IN MANDARIN	6070		
KUNMING YUNNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	9920		
LANZHOU GANSU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	5570		
LHASA XIZANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	12740		
NANNING GUANGXI REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	11020		
TAIYUAN SHANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	10670		
URUMQI XINJIANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	8150		
WUHAN HUBEI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	12730		
XIAN SHAANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	22210		
XINING QINGHAI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	8660		
ZHENGZHOU HENAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	12860		
BEIJING XINHUA HONG KONG SERVICE IN CHINESE		3270	

BEIJING ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE IN CHINESE	39170
BEIJING BAN YUE TAN IN CHINESE	4820
BEIJING BAOGAO WENXUE IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING BEIJING WANBAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING CHINA DAILY IN ENGLISH	28770
BEIJING CHINA DAILY (BUSINESS WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH	960
BEIJING GONGREN RIBAO IN CHINESE	4030
BEIJING GUANGMING RIBAO IN CHINESE	21250
BEIJING GUOJI SHANGBAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING GUOJI WENTI YANJIU IN CHINESE	47600
BEIJING HONGQI IN CHINESE	95350
BEIJING HUANQIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JIEFANGJUN WENYI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JINGJI CANKAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JINGJI GUANLI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JINGJI RIBAO IN CHINESE	18210
BEIJING JINGJI YANJIU IN CHINESE	31640
BEIJING JINGJIXUE ZHOUBAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING LIAOWANG IN CHINESE	15040
BEIJING LILUN YUEKAN IN CHINESE	23060
BEIJING LISHI YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING NONGMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE	5720
BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE	69370
BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO OVERSEAS EDITION IN CHINESE	4660
BEIJING SHIJIE JINGJI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING SHIJIE LISHI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING SHIJIE ZHISHI IN CHINESE	12820
BEIJING WENXUE PINGLUN IN CHINESE	0

BEIJING WENYI BAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING WENZHAI BAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING XINWEN ZHANXIAN IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHEXUE YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHONGGUO FAZHI BAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO IN CHINESE	0
CHENGDU SICHUAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	1200
CHONGQING CHONGQING RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
FUZHOU ZHONGGUO JINGJI WENTI IN CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU GUANGZHOU RIBAO IN CHINESE	3030
GUANGZHOU KAIFANG IN CHINESE	3570
GUANGZHOU NANFANG RIBAO IN CHINESE	7630
GUANGZHOU YANGCHENG WANBAO IN CHINESE	780
HAIKOU HAINAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	5190
HONG KONG LIAOWANG OVERSEAS EDITION IN CHINESE	51840
KUNMING YUNNAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
KUNMING YUNAN SIXIANG ZHANXIAN IN CHINESE	0
LANZHOU GANSU RIBAO IN CHINESE	1440
LANZHOU LANZHOU WANBAO IN CHINESE	0
SHANGHAI SHIJIE JINGJI DAobao IN CHINESE	1270
TAIYUAN SHANXI RIBAO IN CHINESE	5220
WUHAN CHANGJIANG RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
WUHAN HUBEI RIBAO IN CHINESE	4040
XIAN SHAANXI RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
YINCHUAN NINGXIA RIBAO IN CHINESE	12750
ZHENGZHOU HENAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0

HONG KONG		
HONG KONG ASIA TELEVISION LTD IN ENGLISH	0	
HONG KONG TELEVISION BROADCAST LTD IN ENGLISH	0	
HONG KONG COMMERCIAL RADIO IN ENGLISH	1090	
HONG KONG DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	440	
HONG KONG AFP IN ENGLISH		222720
HONG KONG ASIAWEEK IN ENGLISH		1420
HONG KONG CHANWANG IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG CHENG MING IN CHINESE		9200
HONG KONG CHING PAO IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG CHIUSHIH NIENTAI IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW IN ENGLISH		3600
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD IN ENGLISH		11430
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD (BUSINESS STANDARD SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH		2570
HONG KONG HSIN WAN PAO IN CHINESE		1530
HONG KONG KUANG CHIAO CHING IN CHINESE		3610
HONG KONG MING PAO IN CHINESE		740
HONG KONG PAI HSING IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST IN ENGLISH		41830
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (BUSINESS NEWS SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH		31320
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN CHINESE		3640
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN ENGLISH		1900
HONG KONG WEN WEI PO IN CHINESE		5590
NEW ZEALAND		
WELLINGTON THE EVENING POST IN ENGLISH		7620

PHILIPPINES	
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN ENGLISH	22810
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN TAGALOG	5190
DAGUPAN CITY DZDL RADIO IN TAGALOG	2080
LAOAG CITY NATION BROADCASTING CORP., STATION DWRI IN ILOCANO	600
QUEZON CITY DZFM RADIO IN ENGLISH	6900
QUEZON CITY RADYO NG BAYAN IN TAGALOG	2660
MANILA MANILA BULLETIN TODAY IN ENGLISH	47980
MANILA METRO MANILA TIMES IN ENGLISH	7830
MANILA MR. & MS. (SPECIAL EDITION) IN ENGLISH	0
MANILA PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER IN ENGLISH	27520
MANILA THE MANILA EVENING POST IN ENGLISH	2840
MANILA THE MANILA TIMES IN ENGLISH	830
MANILA THE NEW PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS IN ENGLISH	35720
MANILA THE NEW PHILIPPINES SUNDAY EXPRESS IN ENGLISH	4320
MANILA THE SUNDAY TIMES IN ENGLISH	700
MANILA TIMES JOURNAL IN ENGLISH ,	34180
DAVAO CITY PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM IN ENGLISH	0
DAVAO CITY SAN PEDRO EXPRESS IN ENGLISH	0
DAVAO CITY THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR IN ENGLISH	0
QUEZON CITY ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA IN ENGLISH	28430
QUEZON CITY BUSINESS DAY IN ENGLISH	94090
QUEZON CITY NEW DAY IN ENGLISH	2320
QUEZON CITY VERITAS IN ENGLISH	3870
QUEZON CITY WE FORUM IN ENGLISH	3370