

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-6003  
4 March 1986

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

I. GENERAL

A. My recent Monthly Reports have highlighted our preoccupation with the Philippines; February, with its controversial climax to the presidential election and the military-inspired ousting of Marcos, was a different matter altogether. We came close to being completely consumed by it all. The tentative lull that followed the official proclaiming of a Marcos' victory was shattered the evening of the 22d when AFP reported that troops had occupied the Defense Ministry and Defense Minister Enrile was to be arrested. Thus began 6 days of round-the-clock operations and an exhausting, frustrating effort to cover radios which were being blown off the air and which, even in good times, are often unmonitorable. Bureau staff, many of whom were already weary from the months-long Philippines coverage effort, responded admirably, quickly adjusting work schedules and putting in long hours, some with little or no sleep the first few days. The celebrating that took place throughout the Philippines after Marcos fled was duplicated in the bureau, everyone fervently hoping that the situation would return to something close to normal. (See Section II, Monitorial/Editorial, for more details.)

We had another record monthly output on the Philippines: 548,990 publishable words from Philippine radio/press, AFP, and Beijing Tagalog. Total bureau production for the month was 1,266,730, which with a short month amounted to a daily output not much below last month's record 1.44 million words.

B. The Consulate has provided tentative estimates of what it will cost each agency when all employees are housed in the new Shousan Hills and Bonham Road apartment complexes. The 30-plus apartments at Shousan Hills, located on the backside of Hong Kong Island and overlooking Deep Water Bay, are nearly all occupied; the Bonham Road building, which is now due for completion late this year, will house the remaining 90-plus families attached to the Consulate. The Bonham Road apartment is located about a mile west of the Consulate near the University of Hong Kong.

A bit of background for those unfamiliar with all this: State, with agreement from all the attached agencies, decided in the early 1980's to purchase quarters to accommodate all families. This was done at a time when rental costs were increasing dramatically each year and it was felt

buying would ultimately save the government money. Unfortunately, this has now become a dubious assumption, or at least less certain than when the decision was made some years back. Moreover, the security aspect of having so many people all housed in one building was not a major consideration then, as it is now. On top of all this, both buildings have been surrounded by controversy: Shouson was nearly 3 years late in opening due to faulty construction and legal disputes with the contractor; Bonham is also behind schedule, but that is far less concern than the building itself, which is considered inadequate for American families. The complaints center around the small size of the apartments, the location of the building, and the absence of amenities (there is to be a swimming pool, but shared with families who will be living in a twin tower).

But there now seems little that can be done about any of this. The Consul General told a recent Country Team session that the Department was seeing if there was any legal way out of the Bonham venture. But this seems very unlikely. That being the case, people would have to be assigned to Bonham. He emphasized that he did not want section or agency chiefs trying to persuade him that their employees should not be assigned to Bonham. The only exception would be families with too many children to be accommodated in the number of bedrooms available, plus section/agency heads who would remain in privately-leased, representational-size apartments.

The plan is that each agency will pay a certain percentage of the annual cost of purchasing the building, based on the number of families. The cost per family, inclusive of management fees and utilities, is estimated to be US\$42,000 per year initially. This will increase each 2 years by about 19%. The building is to be paid off after 10 years and the annual "rental" charge will then be discontinued. While this appears at first glance to be a sizeable increase over what we are presently paying per year for our privately-leased apartments, over 10 years the total outlay is in line with what we project paying for current quarters at a 10% per year increase in rental and utility costs. We will provide further information on all of this as it becomes available.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The events of February which led to the overthrow of Marcos are now history: the 7 February presidential election; the inconclusive, then disputed results; calls for civil disobedience by the opposition and church; the U.S. Government's involvement highlighted by the Habib visit; Aquino's efforts to challenge the Batasan declaration of a Marcos victory; the Enrile-Ramos break with Marcos; the dual inaugurations of both Marcos and Aquino; the standoff at Camps Aguinaldo and Crame and the "people power" demonstrations throughout greater Manila; the flight of Marcos and the fall of Malacanang Palace; and finally, Cory Aquino's ascendancy.

The bureau's efforts to report on all these and the many related events throughout the month are also now pretty much a part of the record. What happened the evening of the 22d came as no surprise, as much as we

had hoped for a period of quiet. As we had done for the two previous Saturdays in order to handle speeches and other developments, the bureau extended its operating hours as it started to become apparent that something serious was going on. By late evening, the bureau chief, associate editor [redacted], Tagalog monitor [redacted] and teletypist [redacted] had reported for duty to assist and relieve the beleaguered team of [redacted] and teletypist [redacted] most of whom had been on duty since 0800 that morning.

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In the first highly-charged hours, Marcos made two broadcast statements accusing the "rebels" of planning to assassinate him and Imelda and to carry out a coup. Meanwhile, Radio Veritas was broadcasting interviews with Enrile and Ramos, in which they explained their reasons for turning against Marcos, and an appeal by Cardinal Sin for Filipinos to support the move against Marcos. Amidst all this were the reports of people flooding into the streets and around Camp Aguinaldo to prevent the military from attacking. By early morning it was clear that there would be no quick solution to the crisis and the bureau geared up for indefinite round-the-clock operations which, as it turned out, lasted for 6 days.

The bureau's reporting on the crisis was severely hampered after the first day as the few stations monitorable at Hong Kong started going off the air. By Tuesday both Radio Veritas and the government MBS radio had ceased broadcasting due to damage to transmitters and broadcast facilities by hostile forces. That left only FEBC and an unidentified radio broadcasting on single sideband on a non-public broadcasting frequency (7045 KHZ). We learned of this station from USIS, who in turn had been tipped off by a DXer in Macau. Apparently a military transmitter run by forces sympathetic to the Enrile-Ramos movement, it was manned by various announcers and moderators who made frequent public service announcements and appeals to the public to gather at Camps Aguinaldo and Crame and around Channel 4 television facilities (by then in the hands of pro-Aquino forces). There were frequent called-in reports from "mobile units" reporting on the situation around the military camps and Manila in general. Though the transmitter's public broadcasting status was ambiguous, given the value of the information being reported we chose to file the materials obtained openly to consumers. On instructions from MOD later in the week, we began treating the take from this station as QUO. By the end of the week and as the situation began to calm down following the departure of Marcos, two new radios were being heard, both on old MBS frequencies: Radyo Ng Bayan (Radio of the Nation) and DZFM Radio. Toward the end of the week Radio Veritas had been heard again, also using an MBS frequency temporarily and announcing that it would return to its own facilities and frequency on Monday, the 3d. However, the station has not been heard again as of today. Coverage of the crisis was also hampered by the lack of newspapers from Manila. With Manila's International Airport closed for several days and no flights to Hong Kong, we were left without papers until Wednesday, the 26th.

As with all ex post facto reviews of a crisis, we can see where we might have done things a little differently or better were we to do it again. But I don't think we could have asked for any more effort or dedication than what we received from our staff. Everyone contributed. If I had to single out any one individual performance it would have been that of [redacted] manned the radio room for upwards of 16 hours a

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day the first several days. With no in-house cruising or radio room personnel to assist, [ ] almost singlehandedly kept the editors informed as to what was happening with all the radios. His knowledge and experience from handling the Philippine radios over the years proved invaluable; we would have floundered without him. The assistance we received from Bangkok and Okinawa was most helpful, as was the encouragement and praise from Headquarters and the BBC. STAT

2. The bureau filed several flash/immediate reports from AFP on the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, two of which were run on the Wire.

3. In China, PRC media covered here reported that Deng Xiaoping had reappeared in his home town in Sichuan Province following another lengthy absence. The PRC reacted for the first time to the Larry Chin case, a Foreign Ministry spokesman denying that China had any links with Chin. And in Shanghai, sons of several leading party officials were sentenced to death for having committed rape and other crimes over a number of years.

4. Two new publications were added to the bureau's coverage during the month: the PRC journal QUN YAN (Popular Journal) and the Philippine DAILY ENQUIRER, the latter still being received intermittently.

#### B. Lateral Services

We received two requests for special servicing on the Philippines; one we responded to, the other was overtaken by events. Twice during the month we were asked by Seoul Bureau to file priority and above items on the Philippines to the embassy in Seoul. The day before the crisis erupted, we were asked by the embassy in Manila to file reports of Cory Aquino's daily program on Radio Veritas for the attention of the ambassador. The bureau had processed only one of her programs, which were reportedly discontinued after several days.

#### C. Communications

We had a number of outages during the month. Fortunately most were of short duration and did not occur during the height of the crisis or at other key times during the month. We had one lengthy outage on the 4th which was due to computer problems at Clark RRF and a series of in-out periods on 8 and 9 February.

#### D. Technical

1. Our new microwave (Megamux) backup system, using Hong Kong Telephone circuits and digitized terminal equipment, was made available for on line testing as of the 18th. We have been running the system parallel with the microwave except for several days during the Philippines crisis when we left it on microwave to insure that we would have no problems. We have had several outages on the Megamux system so far but it appears that these are only teething problems, or so we hope. Another

problem developed over the weekend which has been traced to a telephone line outage somewhere between Wanchai and Mt. Butler. The telephone company is working on this presently. Testing will resume once this problem is sorted out.

2. AFP's local office advised during the month that our service will be upgraded to 300 baud, probably in April or May. We plan to lease a new printer from Cable & Wireless and they will carry out the installation and hookup of the new service.

3. In January, [ ] carried out a minisurvey of Philippine radios from other locations around Hong Kong Island. He used a Sony 2001-D portable receiver and Mt. Butler as a reference point. He found reception at Mt. Butler was better than at any of the three locations he checked. Checks of other locations were put aside for now due to our current preoccupation with the Philippines and presumption, based on the other checks, that Mt. Butler remains the best monitoring site.

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### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

1. Headquarters has agreed to the permanent transfer of Okinawa Mandarin/Tagalog monitor [ ] to Hong Kong Bureau. [ ] still in Hong Kong on an extended TDY, will return to Okinawa at an opportune time to pack out her personal belongings and conclude matters there. Her departure has been postponed several times now due to developments in the Philippines. With Headquarters approval, we are now planning to hire a third Tagalog monitor on a part-time contract basis to provide additional translating capability and backup to our two regular monitors.

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2. With approval from the Consulate and Headquarters, we are making plans to hire former FBIS editor [ ] when she and her husband come to Hong Kong this summer. [ ] will work as a part-time editor. Her husband is with USIS.

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3. [ ] was promoted to GS-10 effective 2 February.

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4. [ ] wife of associate editor [ ] gave birth during the month to a son, their first child.

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5. Chinese monitor [ ] married during the month, making this the second bureau marriage in as many months.

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#### B. Buildings & Grounds

1. Renovation work to carve out a new Philippines monitoring room on the 13th floor got underway this week and should be completed in a week's time. The bureau's Xerox/computer room and part of the storage room will be made into one room to accommodate three Tagalog monitors and an equipment rack. The monitors will be able to remotely tune at least one receiver and have audio feeds of two others, plus recording capability at their fingertips. An extension of our IDD international telephone line

will also be located in this new room to give them easy access to and control of telephone feeds if/when FBIS receives approval to install a remote setup in the Philippines.

2. New locally-made security doors will be installed on our back stairwell exits as soon as work on the Philippines room is complete. The two doors that were originally shipped from Headquarters but which could not be used here were shipped to Seoul embassy this week for storage and possible use elsewhere.

#### IV. VISITS

A. [redacted], former FBIS editor, and her husband, 4 February, for a tour of the bureau and talks on future employment.

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B. [redacted], 27 Feb-4 Mar, for a periodic engineering visit.

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C. [redacted], on 1 March, while on personal travel and to brief bureau employees on new computer software applications.

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#### V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On the afternoon of 6 February, the entire bureau took a short break to indulge in dim sum and other goodies to mark Chinese New Year, the (almost) end of the long Philippines election campaign, and [redacted] upcoming departure for Okinawa. As it turned out, [redacted] didn't leave after all, but it added to our reasons for having an in-office social hour.

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Bureau Chief

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Attachment: Monthly Production Report

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

## HONG KONG BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

1986

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	1266730
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	107650
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	2216

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	5060	10140	288
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)			

## CHINA

BEIJING INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN TAGALOG	6150
BEIJING TELEVISION SERVICE IN MANDARIN	480
CHANGSHA HUNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	6110
CHENGDU SICHUAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7310
GUANGZHOU GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7630
GUIYANG GUIZHOU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	8740
HAIKOU HAINAN ISLAND SERVICE IN MANDARIN	650
KUNMING YUNNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	6290
LANZHOU GANSU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	3960
LHASA XIZANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	11500
NANNING GUANGXI REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	5590
TAIYUAN SHANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	1690
URUMQI XINJIANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	16730
WUHAN HUBEI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7730
XIAN SHAANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	8990
XINING QINGHAI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	5160
YINCHUAN NINGXIA REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	1520
ZHENGZHOU HENAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7760

BEIJING XINHUA HONG KONG SERVICE IN CHINESE	6600
BEIJING ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE IN CHINESE	23390
BEIJING BAN YUE TAN IN CHINESE	11140
BEIJING BAOGAO WENXUE IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING BEIJING WANBAO IN CHINESE	430
BEIJING CHINA DAILY IN ENGLISH	22730
BEIJING GONGREN RIBAO IN CHINESE	2530
BEIJING GUANGMING RIBAO IN CHINESE	33420
BEIJING GUOJI SHANGBAO IN CHINESE	2850
BEIJING GUOJI WENTI YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING HONGQI IN CHINESE	40590
BEIJING HUANQIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JIEFANGJUN WENYI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JINGJI CANKAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JINGJI GUANLI IN CHINESE	41740
BEIJING JINGJI RIBAO IN CHINESE	24080
BEIJING JINGJI YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JINGJIXUE ZHOUBAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING LIAOWANG IN CHINESE	18360
BEIJING LISHI YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING NONGMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE	3810
BEIJING QUN YAN IN CHINESE	8650
BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE	67290
BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO OVERSEAS EDITION IN CHINESE	5820
BEIJING SHIJIE JINGJI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING SHIJIE LISHI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING SHIJIE ZHISHI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING WENXUE PINGLUN IN CHINESE	0



BEIJING WENYI BAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING WENZHAI BAO IN CHINESE	480
BEIJING XINWEN ZHANXIAN IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHEXUE YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHONGGUO FAZHI BAO IN CHINESE	500
BEIJING ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO IN CHINESE	0
CHENGDU SICHUAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
CHONGQING CHONGQING RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
FUZHOU ZHONGGUO JINGJI WENTI IN CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU GUANGZHOU RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU KAIFANG IN CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU NANFANG RIBAO IN CHINESE	5170
GUANGZHOU YANGCHENG WANBAO IN CHINESE	0
HAIKOU HAINAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
HONG KONG LIAOWANG OVERSEAS EDITION IN CHINESE	40550
KUNMING YUNNAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
KUNMING YUNAN SIXIANG ZHANXIAN IN CHINESE	0
LANZHOU GANSU RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
LANZHOU LANZHOU WANBAO IN CHINESE	610
SHANGHAI SHIJIE JINGJI DAobao IN CHINESE	0
TAIYUAN SHANXI RIBAO IN CHINESE	4240
WUHAN CHANGJIANG RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
WUHAN HUBEI RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
XIAN SHAANXI RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
XIAN XIBEI XINXI DAobao IN CHINESE	720
YINCHUAN NINGXIA RIBAO IN CHINESE	4390
ZHENGZHOU HENAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0

HONG KONG		
HONG KONG ASIA TELEVISION LTD IN ENGLISH	140	
HONG KONG TELEVISION BROADCAST LTD IN ENGLISH	0	
HONG KONG COMMERCIAL RADIO IN ENGLISH	880	
HONG KONG DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	2340	
HONG KONG AFP IN ENGLISH		241740
HONG KONG ASIAWEEK IN ENGLISH		730
HONG KONG CHANWANG IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG CHENG MING IN CHINESE		21320
HONG KONG CHING PAO IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG CHIUSHIH NIENTAI IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW IN ENGLISH		7690
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD IN ENGLISH		12600
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD (BUSINESS STANDARD SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH		4420
HONG KONG HSIN WAN PAO IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG KUANG CHIAO CHING IN CHINESE		6960
HONG KONG MING PAO IN CHINESE		4750
HONG KONG PAI HSING IN CHINESE		6380
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST IN ENGLISH		32650
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (BUSINESS NEWS SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH		20290
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN CHINESE		3190
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN ENGLISH		260
HONG KONG WEN WEI PD IN CHINESE		12310
NEW ZEALAND		
WELLINGTON THE EVENING POST IN ENGLISH		6700
AUCKLAND THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD IN ENGLISH		10830

PHILIPPINES	
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN ENGLISH	39740
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN TAGALOG	4910
MANILA RADIO VERITAS IN ENGLISH	10860
MANILA RADIO VERTAS IN TAGALOG	6720
DAGUPAN CITY DZDL RADIO IN TAGALOG	800
UNIDENTIFIED PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTER IN ENGLISH	7500
UNIDENTIFIED PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTER IN TAGALOG	3830
QUEZON CITY DZFM RADIO IN ENGLISH	2940
QUEZON CITY MAHARLIKA BROADCASTING SYSTEM IN ENGLISH	103560
QUEZON CITY MAHARLIKA BROADCASTING SYSTEM IN TAGALOG	7630
QUEZON CITY RADYO NG BAYAN IN ENGLISH	60
QUEZON CITY RADYO NG BAYAN IN TAGALOG	1030
MANILA BULLETIN TODAY IN ENGLISH	36030
MANILA BUSINESS DAY IN ENGLISH	82480
MANILA METRO MANILA TIMES IN ENGLISH	8940
MANILA MR. & MS. (SPECIAL EDITION) IN ENGLISH	0
MANILA PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS IN ENGLISH	31840
MANILA PHILIPPINES DAILY INQUIRER IN ENGLISH	1200
MANILA PHILIPPINES SUNDAY EXPRESS IN ENGLISH	960
MANILA TIMES JOURNAL IN ENGLISH	22290
DAVAO CITY PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM IN ENGLISH	780
DAVAO CITY MINDANAO TIMES ENGLISH	310
DAVAO CITY SAN PEDRO EXPRESS IN ENGLISH	1840
DAVAO CITY THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR IN ENGLISH	280
QUEZON CITY ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA IN ENGLISH	7530
QUEZON CITY VERITAS IN ENGLISH	1030
QUEZON CITY WE FORUM IN ENGLISH	1380