

MNC-7001
5 January 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- December

I. GENERAL

A. Work on the new bureau this month included placement of terrazzo tiles in corridors and in the kitchen. Grids for the suspended ceiling are in place and all lighting and air conditioning connections are complete. Roughly half of the exterior of the building has received the tyrolean (stucco) finishing surface. In addition, compaction and pouring of walkways, the placement of poles for exterior lighting, and installation of the perimeter wall security gates is underway.

B. Work at the site slowed considerably during the second half of the month with the island's building trades taking long end-of-year holiday breaks. In addition, the onset of seasonal rains has also slowed work on outside areas and brought any work on water-proofing the roof to a complete halt. Several days of bright sunny weather will be needed to dry out the roof before water-proofing can begin.

C. No progress was made during the month on the galvanization of metal window frames, security grills and exterior doors. This is a long-standing point of dispute, which we hope to finally resolve when RECD engineer returns in January.

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D. The landscape architects have submitted revised, improved preliminary plans for the grounds. They will now submit a final plan for approval, and work on the grounds will begin when the contractor completes all outside work.

E. The local press continued to carry stories about our new bureau, but fortunately not at the same rate as in November. Characteristically, the reports allege that we are building a "spy station." All reports have been forwarded to headquarters.

F. Several reports about "terrorist" threats to U.S. facilities in Cyprus were also forwarded to headquarters. Early in the month the local pro-government paper O AGON alleged that three "Arab terrorists" were in Cyprus. It followed up that story later in the month by reporting that "foreign terrorist organizations" were leasing offices and apartments in areas of strategic importance in Cyprus, including in areas close to foreign embassies. This story was followed by a third report on 29 December that groups associated with Abu Nidal had arrived on the island with the intention of attacking the American and Israeli embassies. The stories were reported to the appropriate embassy officers.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau remained open past its normal 2300 GMT COB on 3 December in the wake of a late report carried by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon (RFL), a station representing the Lebanese Forces, on the impending release of an American hostage. However, neither the final RFL newscast of the night nor a later news program broadcast by the Phalangist Party's Voice of Lebanon (VOL) carried any further mention of the issue. With Wire concurrence, the bureau closed following the VOL cast.
2. An open watch on Cairo media was initiated on 4 December after Tel Aviv bureau filed a Jerusalem Domestic Service report alleging that a coup attempt had been aborted in Egypt. The only indication of any domestic disturbance in Egypt came in a Cairo MENA report on the arrest of 33 people, including 4 Armed Forces officers, on charges of having established an "extremist" religious organization. The report, citing the Public Prosecutor, declared that the group had intended to "overthrow the government in power" by means of "force and violence." A subsequent MENA report noted that the group was first discovered in April, and that it was an offshoot of the organization responsible for burning video clubs in February. As Cairo Domestic Service adhered to its normally scheduled programming throughout the day, which included reports on a tour that day by President Mubarak of an iron and steel plant in Alexandria and on a routine meeting held by Prime Minister Sidqi with the chairman of the African Socialist League, the open watch was discontinued and the bureau closed following MENA's signoff.
3. Athens radio was placed on open watch on 19 December following reports of a border clash between Greek and Turkish troops in which two men were killed. Having filed a Greek Defense Ministry statement noting that the two countries had agreed to consider the incident a "local matter," the bureau suspended its open watch after the last regularly monitored Athens newscast of the day.
4. On 10 December, the bureau covered a live relay by Cairo radio of a banquet in Paris hosted by French President Francois Mitterrand in honor of visiting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Interestingly, the radio not only broadcast Mubarak's speech on the occasion but provided Mitterrand's 25-minute address in French, without Arabic translation. Mitterrand's comments were recorded and phonepatched on 11 December to London Bureau, which processed them.
5. Work stoppages declared by the Pan-Hellenic Federation of Hellenic Radio-Television I and II Personnel Associations disrupted Athens radio transmissions five times this month, for a total of 18 hours, within an ongoing labor dispute.
6. A week-long strike called by the unions representing AFP journalists and workers in protest of a reorganization plan proposed by AFP management produced a suspension of the Paris AFP English service monitored at Nicosia from 11 to 18 December.
7. On 2 December, the Athens paper DHIMOKRATIKOS LOGOS, a Socialist publication not on regular coverage, reiterated its 29 November claim to have access to taped conversations between Robert McFarlane and Iranian officials in Tehran involving arms sales, and promised to publish

the content of the tapes the "next few days." The Bureau placed the paper on temporary coverage in response, aware of intense consumer interest in the topic, but no related reports were forthcoming by month's end.

8. With the reduction in PMU's Arabic press coverage forced upon it by the retirement and reassignment of personnel, Nicosia Bureau assumed coverage of the London-based AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and the Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI effective 19 and 22 December, respectively.

9. In response to interest expressed by the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and conveyed by Operations Group, the bureau has been conducting audio-only reception tests of Cairo television as of 3 December at its remote site in Lara. While it is yet too soon to draw firm conclusions, preliminary results, when compared to parallel checks made at our traditional monitoring site in Limassol, are promising.

B. Communications

1. An extended primary circuit outage created by problems with the Embassy [redacted] satellite link, complicated by a possibly defective "isolator" [redacted] forced the bureau to activate and rely on its commercial Nicosia-Caversham TGP-1 circuit from 10 to 13 December.

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C. Lateral Services

1. On 28 December, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo sent the bureau a message expressing high interest in FBIS coverage of the Egyptian Government policy statement to be delivered by Prime Minister Sidqi before the National Assembly on 29 December. The bureau responded with a service message promising the fullest possible coverage of Cairo radio's live relay of the event. The Embassy was included as a recipient of FYI's detailing the address, and special staffing was arranged to ensure rapid processing of the 29-take statement.

D. Technical

1. Bureau technicians installed a new antenna array at our remote site in Lara for use in checking reception of Cairo television programming, as noted in Item 9 under monitorial/editorial operations.

2. The bureau purchased two new Mazda vehicles in December, one a flatbed light truck and the other a crewcab pickup with a camper cover on the back. The Isuzu van being replaced by these two vehicles has been turned over to the embassy for disposal.

3. Bureau technicians are continuing to unpack and add to inventory all of the material received from Gulf Bureau.

4. Equipment received: five Watkins-Johnson Model 871B receivers and five Matrix coaxial switches.

5. Eight ITT Creed teleprinters were turned over to the embassy for disposal.

III. Administration
A. Personnel

1. Regional Engineer [redacted] visited Tel Aviv Bureau 7-11 December on a semi-annual inspection trip. STAT

2. RECD Engineer [redacted] left Cyprus on 12 December following an extended TDY during which he supervised the construction of our new bureau. [redacted] will return in January. STAT
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[redacted]
Bureau Chief
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report

Nicosia Bureau Production Report for December 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	313600
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	111040
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1001

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	9180.00 min.	22260.00 min.	117.00 issues
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (publishable words per month)			

CHINA

Beijing in Persian to Iran	0		
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CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic	22130		
(Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian	0		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic	4880		

CYPRUS

Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek	9810		
Nicosia Television Service in Greek	970		
Nicosia ALITHIA in Greek			250
Nicosia Cyprus MAIL in English			620
Nicosia ELEVETHEROTIPIA in Greek			1180
Nicosia ELEVETHEROTIPIA tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
Nicosia I SIMERINI in Greek			980
Nicosia I SIMERINI tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
Nicosia KHARAVYI in Greek			430

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Nicosia KHARAVYI tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			190
Nicosia O AGON in Greek			510
Nicosia O AGON tis DHEFTERAS in GREEK			210
Nicosia O FILELEVETHEROS in Greek			230
Nicosia O FILELEVETHEROS tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
Nicosia PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE in English			2570
Nicosia TA NEA in Greek			2030
Nicosia TO PERIODIKO in Greek			810
EGYPT			
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	41450		
(Editorial Report in Arabic)	1180		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		53130	
Cairo MENA in English		2000	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		14410	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	16840		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			1130
Athens DHIMOKRATIKOS LOGOS in Greek			1880
Athens ELEVETHEROTIPIA in Greek			3820
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			450
Athens KIRIAKATI KI ELEVETHEROTIPIA in Greek			740
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			1620

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
IRAN			
Tehran Domestic Service in Persian	23170		
IRAQ			
Baghdad in Persian to Iran	0		
LEBANON			
Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	32980		
Beirut Domestic Service in English	400		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	22900		
Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic	5840		
Beirut Ihdin Radio of Free & Unified Lebanon in Arabic	2030		
Beirut AL_NAHAR in Arabic			420
Beirut AL_SAFIR in Arabic			790
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			0
LIBYA			
Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	660		
QATAR			
Doha Domestic Service in Arabic	810		
TURKEY			
Ankara YANKI in Turkish			0
Istanbul BIRLIK in Turkish			210
Istanbul BULVAR in Turkish			1040

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish			6790
Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish			0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish			870
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			5420
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish			9820
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish			5630
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian	1420		
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	920		
Moscow in Persian to Iran	4210		
Baku Domestic Service in Azeri	380		
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES			
Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic	440		