

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

I. GENERAL

A. Construction at our new site focused this month on finishing work in the main building -- both interior and exterior walls have been plastered; doorframes and windowframes have been installed; electrical outlets, boxes and wiring have been put in place; and the pouring of floors has begun. In addition, two of the three outbuildings, the electrical substation and the meter house, have been completed, and the third, the guardhouse, is well underway. The construction of the bureau parking lot has begun, with grading complete and compaction in progress. Finally, late in the month, two satellite antenna pads were poured under the supervision of S.T. Research contractors.

Meanwhile, the bureau completed the designs for various pieces of furniture for the new site, and contracts for its fabrication have been let.

B. At the end of the month, the embassy alerted us to a new possibility of terrorist action directed against U.S. facilities in Cyprus. As a result, the bureau has taken steps to ensure that all employees are as alert and as well prepared as possible. A security specialist from Frankfurt will visit the bureau shortly to assess our physical security situation.

C. With Cyprus' reversion from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time on 28 September, bureau operating hours changed from 0330-2400 GMT to 0430-0100 GMT.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The 5 September hijacking of a Pan American airliner at Karachi Airport prompted the bureau to place Nicosia sources on open watch, when the hijackers demanded that they be flown to Larnaca. Embassy officials were kept apprised of developments in the hijacking as they pertained to Cyprus, including a claim of responsibility for the incident by a caller in Nicosia speaking on behalf of the Libyan Revolutionary Cells; the hijackers' demand for the release of "comrades" imprisoned in Cyprus, three for the killing of Israelis aboard a yacht at Larnaca Marina last year, and one being held in connection with the August attack on the British base at Akrotiri; and the Cypriot Government's refusal to allow the hijacked plane to land in Larnaca. The bureau stood down from its blanket coverage of Nicosia media following reports that the plane had been stormed in Karachi that evening, ending the incident.

2. Reports linking the expected summit between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to the prerequisite signing of an arbitral compromise agreement on the Tabah dispute, in tandem with the Egyptian foreign minister's 10 September announcement that "important news" would be forthcoming that evening on the issue, prompted the bureau to place Cairo radio on open-speaker watch and to extend its operating hours to ensure proper coverage of events. The arbitral compromise agreement was, in fact, signed in the early hours of 11 September, and Egypt announced that the Mubarak-Peres summit would take place in Alexandria later that day. The bureau filed all pertinent reports, and then closed.

3. Embassy officers expressed appreciation for the bureau's notification of 16 September reports on the arrest of three Iranians in the possession of a "sophisticated booby-trapped case" at Ankara Airport as they were preparing to fly to northern Cyprus. The Cypriot Government spokesman, citing a statement by Turkish police, said that the three had planned to carry out a "bomb attack in the free areas of Cyprus."

4. Working with the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, the bureau was once again able to procure a specific edition of a Beirut newspaper -- the 29 August AL-NAHAR -- in response to the intense interest of Washington consumers in the U.S. hostages in Beirut. The paper, which published a photograph of hostage David Jacobsen next to a statement by the Islamic Jihad Organization warning against any "military operation" to free the hostages, was sent to Washington via commercial air courier on 3 September.

5. The bureau placed Beirut Voice of Lebanon on open-speaker watch on 27 September, following a Beirut Domestic Service report that the "new building" housing VOL had been occupied in the course of fighting between rival factions of the Lebanese Forces. Despite a subsequent Voice of National Resistance radio report noting that "pitched battles" were taking place around VOL's studios in Sasin Square, the radio continued to carry its regularly scheduled programming without interruption. VOL later reported that Samir Ja'Ja, chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, whom it supports, had visited the building that evening to announce that his forces had "cleansed East Beirut." In light of this statement and earlier reports that the Army and Ja'Ja's Lebanese Forces had gained control of the situation, the bureau observed its normal COB.

6. The bureau alerted the Embassy's Regional Security Officer to several reports in the course of the month referring to possible terrorist attacks on Cyprus. The 19 September edition of the rightwing paper ALITHIA carried a report noting that "Israeli targets" might be attacked, while the 24 September edition of the EDEK Socialist Party paper TA NEA cited Kuwaiti facilities as the intended targets of a planned terrorist operation on the island. The independent paper O FILELEVTHEROS was somewhat more vague in a 21 September report, merely noting that strict security measures had been implemented at various Western embassies and the residences of Western diplomats. The 28 September edition of TA NEA took a different tack, however, reporting that the Israeli secret services have chosen the "free areas" of Cyprus as the place to "settle scores" with the Palestinians, and have planned various operations.

7. Despite a reported "bomb alert" at the Paris headquarters of AFP on 19 September and the emergency evacuation of its personnel, Nicosia Bureau observed no delay or interruption in the traffic carried over the AFP English beam monitored here.

8. Upon completion of a productivity study, the bureau proposed that coverage of 8 of of the 18 Cairo Domestic Service casts monitored daily be dropped, and received MOD and BBC concurrence in the decision.

B. Lateral Services

1. Acting on a request from the U.S. Embassy in Beirut for bureau assistance in supplying "timely FBIS material," we proposed and LRB implemented a new lateral service for the Embassy, to be applied despite the minimize that is in place. The embassy expressed its satisfaction with the service as proposed and noted its appreciation of our assistance.

2. In response to a query from MOD, the bureau sought confirmation from the BBC of our commitment to backstop record all Libyan radio broadcasts, first undertaken in the spring of this year, and was advised that the backstopping is no longer necessary. The requirement was therefore dropped on 15 September.

C. Technical

1. Eighteen new Extel Comscribe teleprinters were received from Headquarters to replace the bureau's ITT Creed and Extel AF-11 printers; eight have been installed to date.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Bureau Administrative Assistant [redacted] was in Tel Aviv to provide TDY assistance 14-18 September. [redacted] efforts were later STAT
praised by the chief of Tel Aviv Bureau.

2. [redacted] successfully completed his 3-month editorial STAT
training TDY and departed Cyprus on 29 September.

B. Visitors

1. [redacted] RECD engineer, arrived on 7 September to oversee STAT
the construction of the new bureau, following the island-wide vacation period in August.

2. FBIS Deputy Chief of Operations [redacted] visited the STAT
bureau 8-11 September, during which time he met with bureau staffers individually and as a group to brief them on progress made in Headquarters' modernization and relocation plans.

3. FED/FSB Engineer [redacted] accompanied Al Ross and Jim STAT
Reisner, engineers representing S.T. Research, to Nicosia 21-26 September, to discuss plans for the new bureau's satellite monitoring facility.

STAT

[redacted]
Bureau Chief
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report

Nicosia Bureau Production Report for September 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	314330
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	113680
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1061

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	8760.00 min.	22260.00 min.	117.00 issues

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

CHINA			
Beijing in			
Persian to Iran	0		
CLANDESTINE (LEVANT)			
(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in			
Arabic	17040		
*(Clandestine) Radio Iran in			
Persian	570		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in			
Arabic	7080		
CYPRUS			
Nicosia Domestic Service in			
Greek	14080		
Nicosia Domestic Service in			
English	150		
*Nicosia Television Service in			
Greek	580		
*Nicosia ALITHIA in			
Greek			110
Nicosia Cyprus MAIL in			
English			620
Nicosia ELEVTHEROTIPIA in			
Greek			1580
Nicosia ELEVTHEROTIPIA tis DHEFTERAS			
in			
Greek			120
Nicosia I SIMERINI in			
Greek			2190
Nicosia I SIMERINI tis DHEFTERAS in			
Greek			0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Nicosia KHARAVYI in Greek			930
Nicosia KHARAVYI tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
*Nicosia O AGON in Greek			690
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek			1560
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
*Nicosia PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE in English			5030
*Nicosia TA NEA in Greek			500
*Nicosia THE CYPRUS WEEKLY in English			930
EGYPT			
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	11960		
*Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic	1120		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		54340	
Cairo MENA in English		3900	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		32370	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	13920		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			950
Athens ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			1680
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			620
Athens KIRIAKATI KI ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			360
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			2590
*Athens TA NEA in Greek			1260

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
IRAN Tehran Domestic Service in Persian	21610		
IRAQ Baghdad in Persian to Iran	0		
LEBANON Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	30390		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	29940		
*Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	310		
Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic	8310		
Beirut Ihdin Radio of Free & Unified Lebanon in Arabic	850		
Beirut AL_NAHAR in Arabic			220
Beirut AL_SAFIR in Arabic			990
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			1610
LIBYA Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	1450		
QATAR *Doha Domestic Service in Arabic	850		
TURKEY Ankara YANKI in Turkish			1020
* (Editorial Report in Turkish)			990
*Istanbul BULVAR in Turkish			1220

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish			4230
Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish			0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish			1360
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			6760
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish			6260
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish			9200
UNION OF SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
*Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek	2600		
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	120		
Moscow in Persian to Iran	4340		
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES			
*Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic	870		