

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET				
SUBJECT: (Optional) Monthly Report -- Abidjan Bureau				
FROM: Chief, Operations Group		EXTENSION 3-5991	NO. DATE October 1987	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. C/Ops	4 Dec		B	
2.	8 Dec		F	
3. C/E&PS			↓	
4. DD/FBIS	12/4		G	
5. D/FBIS	8 Dec 2		R	
6.				
7. PO/RA	12/8		OM	
8. SA/CD	12/9		Ent	
9.				
10. C/AS	9 Dec		CD	
11.				
12. C/AG	9 Dec 10/12		gm mm	
13. Admin Staff			CD	
14. C/B&F				
15. Exec. Reg.				



**EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
ABIDJAN BUREAU**

FBIS 2600-87  
1 November 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS  
THRU: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--October 1987

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Bureau coverage in October was dominated by a coup in Burkina Faso in which popular and charismatic leader Thomas Sankara was killed and replaced by his longtime associate Blaise Compaore. The bureau monitored the initial announcement at 1816 gmt from Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French and filed a flash fyi which cleared the bureau four minutes later. It was the first of almost 200 items filed during the month on this story which has several interesting twists and which drew wide reaction from Burkina's neighboring countries.

According to Compaore, Sankara had become increasingly autocratic in his decisionmaking and had decided to arrest and execute several high-ranking associates on the 15th. Learning of this plot, Compaore's 5th Military Region troops supposedly moved without his orders against Sankara. In the fighting that ensued, Sankara and several of his bodyguards were killed. Compaore later said that events had gotten out of hand, that there was no original intention to kill Sankara and that he "had been overwhelmed with grief" by the death of his former friend. Compaore has now become head of state, head of government and chairman of the new ruling Popular Front. His key associates in the coup, Capt Henri Zongo and Maj Jean-Baptiste Lingani have become ministers of economic promotion and defense respectively. There has been no clear indication of new policy directions so far. Compaore speaks in vague terms of a "rectification" process to get the revolution back on track.

Opposition to the coup so far has centered around the commander of the 3d Military Region, the colorful "Lion of Bulkiemde", Capt Boukary Kabore. Ouagadougou derisively suggested he might be more lamb than lion when his opposition folded without serious fighting on October 27 as troops loyal to Compaore moved into the area. He is currently rumored to have fled to Ghana. Ouagadougou also reported that the commander of the 2d Military Region had blocked a motion of support for the new regime, since rectified, and there have been some isolated instances of students expressing pro-Sankara sentiments but at the moment there is no open opposition being reported.

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Burkina's neighbors have been split in their reaction to the coup. Togo and Ivory Coast for example have pledged to work with the new regime while Ghana continues to extoll Sankara (thought to be a personal friend of head of state Rawlings) and broadcast "eyewitness" accounts of Sankara's murder that differ markedly from Compaore's version. Congo has also been critical with the Youth Union, believed to include top Congolese officials, calling for Burkina youth to reject Compaore.

To cover the coup, the bureau remained open late several times, once throughout the night, and had an open speaker watch both on Ouagadougou Domestic Service and on Bobo-Dioulasso radio broadcast from the second largest town in Burkina Faso.

2. In Liberia charges and counter charges of spying were reported in the wake of Bob Woodward's new book on the CIA which reportedly implicates the agency in a 1985 assassination attempt against Liberian leader, Liberia subsequently tightened control of contacts with foreign diplomats and President Doe stated publicly that he wasn't about to take orders from the CIA or KGB. In one of the few official comments on the issue, the Liberian Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism on 9 October called on the United States to come out with a "convincing statement" on this issue. It said "Liberia cannot afford the double faced and hypocritical role being played by their historic friend," but there has been little other official comment monitored. Meanwhile, President Doe has used the occasion to claim that some of the bishops and religious leaders who oppose his policy are spies and the opposition has in turn accused the Liberian ambassador to the United States of being a spy.

3. Other noteworthy events during the month included a rumored assassination attempt against the Mauritanian head of state on October 27, an unsuccessful coup attempt in Mauritania on the 22d, continued Libyan overflights of Chad, and Ghanaian charges that the CSSR and EEC were shipping contaminated powdered milk to them that was radioactive due to the Chernobyl incident.

#### B. Lateral Services

1. The bureau supplied the Ivory Coast Foreign Ministry with a transcript of the first speech by Blaise Campaore, the new Burkinabe head of state, in which he addressed the nation on the reasons for the coup.

2. The bureau received a message of appreciation from U.S. Embassy Nouakchott for "high quality work." The message states that "FBIS items are always timely and very well translated. We find them quite valuable as we attempt to interpret events in a society where reliable information is often hard to find."

#### C. Technical

A date-time stamp received this month from Swaziland Bureau was added to the bureau's inventory of non-expendable equipment.

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II. VISITS

1. Ambassador Dennis Kux attended the bureau staff meeting on 26 October. He complimented the staff on coverage of the Burkina Faso coup. ✓

2. Vienna deputy commo supervisor [redacted] spend one day TDY at the bureau. His discussions with communications and monitorial personnel on automation at Vienna Bureau were particularly interesting and useful. STAT

3. Newly-assigned USIA Cultural Attache Amelia Broderick toured the bureau and received a short briefing on operations.

[redacted]

Chief, Abidjan Bureau STAT

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau  
Deputy Chief, London Bureau

## Abidjan Bureau Production Report for October 1987

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	273564
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	17770
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	730

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	8037.00 min.	23700.00 min.	113.00 issues

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

## BENIN

Cotonou Domestic Service in French	5920		
Parakou Domestic Service in French	0		
Cotonou EHUZU in French			0

## BURKINA

Ouadougou Domestic Service in French	55410		
Ouagadougou CARREFOUR AFRICAIN in French			0
Ouagadougou SIDWAYA in French			2140

## CAMEROON

Yaounde Domestic Service in English	1120		
Yaounde Domestic Service in French	1650		
Yaounde CAMEROON TRIBUNE in English			0
Yaounde CAMEROON TRIBUNE in French			0

## CAPE VERDE

Praia VOZ DI FOVO in Portuguese			120
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## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Bangui Domestic Service in French	1520		
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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
CHAD			
Ndjamena Domestic Service in French	16834		
CLANDESTINE			
(Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French	0		
CONGO			
Brazzaville Domestic Service in French	500		
Brazzaville BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French			0
Brazzaville ETUMBA in French			0
brazzaville mweti in french			0
EQUATORIAL GUINEA			
Bata Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		6710	
Paris AFP in French		30910	
Paris Diplomatic Infor Service in French		0	
Paris Diplomatic Infor Service in English		0	
Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French			8130
GABON			
Libreville Africa No. 1 in French	5090		
Libreville Domestic Service in French	470		
Libreville L'UNION in French			250

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
GHANA			
Accra International Service in English	680		
Accra Domestic Service in English	29280		
Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English			0
Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English			0
Accra WEEKLY MIRROR in English			0
Accra WEEKLY SPECTATOR in English			0
GREAT BRITAIN			
London BBC in English	10440		
London WEST AFRICA in English			0
GUINEA			
Conakry Domestic Service in French	2840		
Conakry HOROYA in French			0
GUINEA-BISSAU			
Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese			0
IVORY COAST			
Abidjan Domestic Service in French	4350		
Abidjan Television Service in French	600		
Abidjan Ivoir'soir in French			0
Abidjan FRATERNITE HEBDO in French			0
Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French			2990
Abidjan INFORMATION in French			0
Abidjan IVOIRE DIMANCHE in French			0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
<b>LIBERIA</b>			
Monrovia Domestic Service in English	640		
Monrovia Radio ELWA in English	6900		
Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English			0
<b>MALI</b>			
Bamako Domestic Service in French	9080		
Bamako L'ESSOR in French			0
<b>MAURITANIA</b>			
Nouakchott Domestic Service in French	1740		
Nouakchott CHAAB in French			0
<b>NIGER</b>			
Niamey Domestic Service in French	3610		
Niamey LE SAHEL in French			0
Niamey SAHEL HEBDO in French			0
<b>NIGERIA</b>			
Lagos International Service in English	850		
Lagos Domestic Service in English	19350		
Kaduna Domestic Service in English	750		
Lagos NAN in English		6550	
Lagos DAILY TIMES in English			0
Lagos THE GUARDIAN in English			40
<b>RWANDA</b>			
Kigali Domestic Service in French	0		



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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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## SENEGAL

Dakar Domestic Service in  
French

4530

DAKAR PANA in  
english

8260

Dakar PANA in  
French

6830

Dakar LE SOLEIL in  
French

0

## SIERRA LEONE

Freetown Domestic Service in  
English

1850

Freetown DAILY MAIL in  
English

0

## THE GAMBIA

Banjul GAMBIA NEWS BULLETIN in  
English

0

## TOGO

Lome International Service in  
French

0

Lome Domestic Service in  
French

5960

Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in  
French

0

## ZAIRE

Kinshasa Domestic Service in  
French

1800

Kinshasa AZAF in  
French

6870

Kinshasa ELIMA in  
French

0