

MNC-7002  
5 February 1987

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

# I. GENERAL

A. Work continues apace at the new bureau site. Mild weather for most of the month has enabled the Contractor to resume work on water-proofing the roof. This should be completed by mid-February at which time we hope to begin work installing our rooftop antennas and associated cabling. As finishing work progresses within the building we will begin the task of pulling cables, installing telephone lines, and so forth to the extent we are not in the way of the Contractor's work. The Contractor has started closing the last portion of the perimeter wall, which had been left open as an equipment access. Entrance to the site will now be by the main entrance which should be completed by mid-February. The landscape architect is now on site drilling the borehole to provide water for our green areas. Please see January's weekly progress reports filed by our Headquarters engineer for more detail on construction progress.

B. [redacted], general manager of the BBC Monitoring Service, visited the bureau 26-30 January. The four-day visit offered a good opportunity to discuss Bureau/BBC coordination and bureau support of BBC requirements. [redacted] was most laudatory of the bureau's support of BBC coverage needs, noting at the beginning and conclusion of our business discussions that there were no major problems in the Bureau/BBC relationship. A separate report on [redacted] visit has been cabled to headquarters.

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C. Nicosia was the site of three minor bomb incidents in early January, while a fourth incident occurred in Larnaca. On 3 January, police found a "time bomb" near a kiosk in Nicosia's busy Ipiros Square. The English-language newspaper CYPRUS MAIL reported the next day that the detonator went off, but failed to ignite the attached explosives. The result was merely a loud bang. On 7 January, a municipal employee contacted police to report a suspicious device found in a garden near Nicosia's City Hall. O AGON, a local pro-government paper, later reported that while there was a detonator, no explosives were attached.

On the evening of 8 January, bureau personnel alerted the Embassy's Marine guards to intensive police activity [redacted]

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[redacted] After contacting the police, the Marines advised that a suspected bomb had been found in front of a travel agency just down the street, and that the police intended to detonate it under controlled conditions. Later, upon receipt of a Radio Monte Carlo report filed by Jordan Bureau to the effect that a "large explosion" had taken place near the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia and that "no information about casualties" was available, the bureau telephoned the Wire to assure them that both the Embassy and we were quite safe. Subsequent reports on the incident carried by Nicosia radio were filed. Both the Embassy and the Wire expressed appreciation for the alerts.

Finally, a small quantity of dynamite placed in a drainpipe in the city of Larnaca exploded on 10 January, causing minor damage to the water tanks of an adjacent apartment building. The DISI party paper I SIMERINI reported later that a note was found near the pipe warning of "new explosions, with casualties," unless Amin Sulaymin Za'rur, who is serving a 7-year prison sentence for possessing weapons and explosives, was released within a week.

Though there have been no direct claims of responsibility for these four incidents, the independent paper O FILELEVETHEROS reports that police are "fully convinced" that the Islamic organization "the Party of God" (Hizballah) is responsible.

D. Late in January, the bureau installed BACH Version 2.1 for the computerized generation of message headers, replacing its earlier "homebrewed" PC header generation system, which had been in place for about a year. The bureau makes extensive use of its four IBM PC's and XT's for other purposes, as well. They are used to generate nearly all bureau reports to Headquarters, bureau correspondence, bureau memoranda and notices, and various personnel work schedules; and to maintain the bureau's SOP, inventories and accountable property records, the bureau's lateral services system, and local cabinet and diplomatic lists, among other things.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau remained open around the clock on the night of 25-26 January to monitor the Phalangist-affiliated Voice of Lebanon (VOL) radio, in view of the fact that the Oppressed on Earth Organization had twice contacted this station earlier in the day to claim responsibility for kidnapping four Beirut University College professors, three of whom are American, and to threaten that one of the four would be killed unless Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, suspected hijacker of a TWA airliner being held in the FRG, were released by midnight. The radio reported no further contact from the group during the night. The bureau also kept a round-the-clock open watch on VOL, the only 24-hour Beirut station monitored, for the subsequent 2 days (an Arabic monitor on duty with editor and teletypist on call), seeking possible new reportage on the foreign hostages in Lebanon and the whereabouts of Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, working to secure their release.

Given conflicting reports about the possible kidnapping of Waite since he left his hotel in West Beirut on 20 January to meet with the kidnappers of foreigners being held in Lebanon, and the threats leveled by a group calling itself the Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine that it would "execute" the four professors it claims to have abducted if its demands are not met or if the United States undertakes any military action against Lebanon, the bureau has liberally filed all available information from Lebanese media on the hostage issue.

2. Having been alerted by AFP and Beirut Domestic Service reports on an interview given by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi to AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI, a Beirut publication not on regular coverage, the bureau undertook to secure the 26 January edition of the paper, which contained the interview, and filed it on the following day.

3. The bureau assumed coverage responsibility for the 1815-1845 GMT newscast broadcast by Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland (VOGAH) at the outset of the month, given the BBC's reception difficulties. We have also responded to repeated ad hoc requests from LD/BBC this month for assistance in covering other casts from both VOGAH and Tripoli Domestic Service by initiating backstop recording procedures for two nightly Tripoli newscasts until BBC reception stabilizes.

4. Athens radio interrupted its transmission for 4 hours on 15 January in support of a work stoppage declared by the Greek General Confederation of Labor.

5. The bureau extended its operating hours on 27 January to complete processing and filing of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's address to the ICO summit in Kuwait.

#### B. Lateral Services

1. The text of Egyptian President Mubarak's 27 January address at the ICO summit in Kuwait and that of the 28 January address by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, taken from a Beirut publication not on regular coverage, were filed to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut at the Embassy's request, over the minimize in effect.

2. Bureau personnel alerted Embassy officers to a report in the 15 January edition of the local paper ALITHIA, a rightwing publication not on regular coverage, alleging that a group of 15 "Arabs" were en route to Cyprus with plans to attack "mainly Syrian" targets, [redacted]

[redacted] Appropriate Embassy officers, including the DCM, were also kept abreast of critical developments in the hostage issue and Terry Waite's mission in Lebanon, at their request.

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3. On 23 January, the bureau alerted Embassy officers to a brief report in O FILELEVETHEROS noting that anti-nuclear protesters intended to march to the Embassy to deliver a resolution following a rally that afternoon. The officers expressed their appreciation of the warning, noting that it was the first indication they had received of the planned march.

### III. Administration

#### A. Personnel

1. [redacted] arrived PCS on 4 January to replace editor [redacted] who departed Nicosia on 18 January to take up new duties in the DRD.

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#### B. Visitors

1. [redacted] general manager of the BBC Monitoring Service, visited the bureau 26-30 January for familiarization and discussion of bureau-BBC coordination.

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[redacted]  
Bureau Chief  
Nicosia Bureau

## Nicosia Bureau Production Report for January 1987

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	282140
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	123940
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)	9180.00 min.	22260.00 min.	125.00 issues
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (publishable words per month)			

## CHINA

Beijing in

Persian to Iran

0

## CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in  
Arabic

24620

(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in  
English

680

(Clandestine) Radio Iran in  
Persian

0

(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in  
Arabic

7790

## CYPRUS

Nicosia Domestic Service in  
Greek

8750

Nicosia Television Service in  
Greek

1030

Nicosia Television Service in  
English

210

Nicosia ALITHIA in  
Greek

570

Nicosia Cyprus MAIL in  
English

2460

Nicosia ELEVETHEROTIPIA in  
Greek

260

Nicosia ELEVETHEROTIPIA tis DHEFTERAS  
in

Greek

0

Nicosia I SIMERINI in  
Greek

900

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Nicosia I SIMERINI tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
Nicosia KHARAVYI in Greek			350
Nicosia KHARAVYI tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			560
Nicosia O AGON in Greek			670
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek			1830
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
Nicosia PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE in Greek			130
Nicosia TA NEA in Greek			390
EGYPT			
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	13880		
Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic	550		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		50050	
Cairo MENA in English		3700	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		27270	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	12630		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			690
Athens ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			1140
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			980
Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			0
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			0
Athens TO VIMA in Greek			1340

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
<b>IRAN</b>			
Tehran International Service in Turkish	460		
Tehran Domestic Service in Persian	10560		
<b>IRAQ</b>			
Baghdad in Persian to Iran	0		
<b>LEBANON</b>			
Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	35730		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	28370		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English	550		
Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic	6340		
Beirut Ihdin Radio of Free & Unified Lebanon in Arabic	1080		
Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic			1950
Beirut AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI in Arabic			2410
Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic			0
Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic			0
Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic			370
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			0
<b>LIBYA</b>			
Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	1520		
Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic	530		
<b>QATAR</b>			
Doha Domestic Service in Arabic	480		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
TURKEY			
Ankara YANKI in Turkish			0
Istanbul BULVAR in Turkish			1700
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish			5430
Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish			0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish			710
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			5550
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish			6480
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish			4720
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian	150		
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	0		
Moscow in Persian to Iran	1510		
Baku Domestic Service in Azeri	760		
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES			
Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic	540		
UNITED KINGDOM			
London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic			810