

UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN  
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
OKINAWA BUREAU  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96239

MOK-7007  
1 April 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

FROM:   
Acting Chief, Okinawa Bureau

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SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Okinawa Bureau - March 1987

## I. GENERAL

A. The Japanese yen-U.S. dollar exchange rate broke another historic record at the end of March, dropping the dollar to 144.70 on 30 March, the weakest it has ever been since the 1948 postwar pegged rate of 360 yen to \$1.00. The dollar's weakness--triggered by new remarks by Treasury Secretary Baker, threats of U.S. tariffs against Japanese electronic products in mid-April because of the computer microchip "dumping" charges, and feverish currency speculation--may require further bureau budget adjustments if the rate fails to return soon to the 150 to \$1 plateau at which FY87 estimates were made. In practical and personal terms, it means U.S. military and FBIS personnel curtail even further their offbase shopping and dining out, doing so selectively, where Okinawan establishments offer special yen rates 20-30 yen higher than the market in order to attract business. Americans were also inspired to drive and park very carefully by a doubling of Japanese traffic and parking fines taking effect 1 April; samples: illegal parking \$80, speeding 15-20 mph over limits \$133, and no tail lights \$47.

B. An unusually cool and rainy March provided the first above-average rainfall this winter and reduced the danger of summer drought and water rationing, but slowed the pace of bureau projects--erecting antenna field poles and completing roads, and pouring the concrete slab for the new three-bedroom duplex under construction in the FBIS housing area to replace the old quonset.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Extensive Beijing television reporting of Secretary of State Shultz's China visit and his audience with Deng Xiaoping, and the opening of China's sixth National People's Congress, fifth session, highlighted bureau coverage. Hong Kong Bureau provided good processing assistance on the major 25 March NPC work report delivered by Acting Premier Zhao Ziyang live on television and radio. We discovered we were staffed a bit thin to handle the combined live TV, radio and Xinhua Chinese transmissions, and laid on extra monitor power to complete the 22,000-word report in

reasonable time. Extensive TV descriptives were filed from the NPC, and also press conference interviews on it and the CPPCC sessions that began 24 March, both of which still continue.

2. Increased use of our 10-meter dish for China's NPC pointed up recent problems with the bureau's small PESOS dish, used to cover the Soviet 140 East satellite for Moscow TV. While initially, a year ago, PESOS provided stable and reliable signal levels from the 140, in recent weeks the satellite apparently has drifted out of position and its figure-8 oscillations have increased, causing severe signal loss. Engineering personnel have peaked and repeaked the PESOS alignment several times, but it still loses signal to a point where we have had to request London/BBC to cover selected programs while the large dish was on Beijing TV. Technical tests and measurements continue in an effort to relocate the 140's "G-spot."

3. DRD editorial trainee TDYer [redacted] completed her training successfully on 23 March and departed for Headquarters with a short Hong Kong visit. We have been told Okinawa will not have another trainee until after the summer computer FBA-1 automation project is in place.

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4. The Okinawa-Hong Kong facsimile connection was tested on 13 March with excellent results, in preparation for Okinawa's sharing in Hong Kong processing of HONGQI in April, after the NPC and CPPCC sessions conclude. The first issues of Okinawa's HONGQI direct airmail subscription were received with 3- and 2-week lag times--much slower than promised by the Tokyo distributor, and slower than Hong Kong's own. We have complained to the distributor, who is checking and promising better results soon.

5. Excellent color photographs of China's leaders attending the NPC were obtained from our Beijing television tapes, using off-screen photography skills taught to our Chinese monitors by Russian Unit chief [redacted] who has been producing USSR leadership and military hardware photographs for years for AG and BBC/LD use. We plan to add them to our file, and pouch the negatives to AG for printing its own photos for AG production and identification use, as an irregular service.

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#### B. Lateral Services

1. The bureau and MOD worked together on a cliffhanger effort to provide a Soviet military videotape for a 2 April briefing planned by Brig Gen Keith Connolly, 313th Air Division commander. We sent the tape to MOD for conversion to NTSC standard playable on the general's briefing machine, but the returned tape by DHL courier ran afoul of Japanese customs at Tokyo/Narita for lack of a customs declaration. We were able to use our new Nefax machine operationally for the first time to receive a customs form, which was immediately filled out and returned to DHL for rushing to Narita customs, to make the general's deadline. The tape was delivered to the bureau on 1 April, just in time.

2. The American Consulate Guangzhou wired appreciation for bureau translations from Fujian provincial newspapers of articles on PRC economic reform by party secretary Chen Guangyi, asking certain ones be refiled to the U.S. Embassy Beijing with special flagging. We provided at MOD request for a Hqs consumer a videotape of Soviet party official Yakovlev's 12 March Madrid press conference ending a parliamentarians' visit. We filled a U.S. Embassy Seoul request for a Japanese SANKEI SHIMBUN report on the ROK's reply to a North Korean proposal to hold high-level North-South Korean talks.

#### C. Cruising

Major cruising projects in March included a complete transmission schedule of PRC domestic and international services relayed on China's STW-2 satellite--except for the 1045-1500 GMT period when the large dish is committed to Beijing TV, checks on radio and press services on the 60 E and 63 E Intelsats and 108 E Palapa satellite, efforts to locate the new Palapa satellite launched in late March by a U.S. rocket, and initial checks on Soviet international services with the spring frequency changeovers that began with daylight savings time on 29 March. The cruising unit plans to file all the USSR seasonal changes in "Write Now" wordprocessor format on computer floppy disk, so that communicators need not rekey these lists anymore.

#### D. Communications

Far Eastern emergency relay procedures were reconfirmed twice in March when outages at other bureaus, including one instance where Bangkok was asked to serve as relay point instead of Okinawa, indicated some confusion. Okinawa continues to relay for other Far East bureaus using telex during outages, with incoming traffic for others required to be filed to RUHJFBA in JANAP 128 format, giving OW a punched tape. We obtained figures for a possible DCA dedicated circuit to Tokyo for our secure communications, at C/Ops request, indicating annual costs would run about \$21-22,000, or about \$60 daily. The on-line or dial-up issue remained unresolved at month's end, pending bureau chief discussions in Hqs.

#### E. Technical

Heavy and constant rainfall slowed and at times stopped all work on antenna field replacements. The contractor doing rhombics had to halt work near March's end because of rain-softened soil, and Air Force crews working on beverage antennas also experienced rain delays and equipment breakdowns. Construction of computer furniture for the FBA-1 computer system to be installed this summer continued, with the FBIS cabinetmaker/carpenter completing the first seven tables. We estimate savings of thousands of dollars below commercial table and desk prices. Considerable time was spent aligning PESOS on the Clark belt, but the best azimuth orientation for PESOS on the Soviet 140 satellite has not yet been achieved.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. We made firm job offers to two Chinese monitor applicants from Taiwan after receiving EOD approval and numbers. The two will probably EOD this summer after all documentation and visa approvals are obtained.

2. Russian senior monitor [redacted] departed Okinawa for retirement on 16 March after presentation of a letter from Director, FBIS. Quiet and reserved to the last, [redacted] declined to have a retirement banquet. He will live in Reading, England.

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3. [redacted] and children departed on advance PCS travel to the United States on 14 March.

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B. Buildings and Grounds

Concrete footings and the floor slab for the new three-bedroom duplex FBIS house were finally poured at month-end after long rain delays. The house is to be finished by September. Bureau staffers met with Army Corps of Engineers and Pan Asia architects on 17 March to discuss "concept design" plans for remodeling the oldest, GSWK metal-roof houses, and an initial design to convert one three-bedroom house to a two-bedroom duplex. Further studies and revisions were requested.

IV. VISITORS

To the Bureau:

Major Jones and Captain Faggett, Buckner ASC, on 9 March for an orientation visit and tour of bureau communications; communications specialist [redacted] Clark AFB, 12-14 March for inspection of bureau facilities; Richard W. Gronet, Chief DOD Special Representative for Japan, on 17 March for a briefing on operations; [redacted] secretarial applicant, on 20 March for interview and application; Tech Sergeant Donald Downing and Staff Sergeant Norman Taylor, of Yokota ASC, on 31 March for a bureau orientation related to a mini-ASC conference at the Butler ASC in April.

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From the Bureau

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Admin officer [redacted] and MLC assistant [redacted] [redacted] to U.S. Embassy Tokyo 18-22 March for consultations; bureau chief to Headquarters 20 March through 3 April for bureau chiefs' conference; Standiford to Bangkok and Singapore 26 March through 3 April, for regional support conference and leave in Singapore.

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## OKINAWA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	1,060,910
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	587,920
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	3,531

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:

(minutes or issues per week)

BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
21,930 min.	20,700 min.	175.79 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

## CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh SPK in  
English

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## CHINA

Beijing International Service to East and South Africa in English	---
Beijing International Service to North America in English	1,390
Beijing International Service in Japanese	2,030
Beijing International Service in Mandarin	360
Beijing to Taiwan in Mandarin	700
Beijing to the USSR in Russian	8,100
Beijing to Vietnam in Vietnamese	1,770
Beijing Domestic Service in Mandarin	18,670
Beijing Television Service in Mandarin	4,760
Fuzhou Fujian Provincial Service in Mandarin	2,210
Hangzhou Zhejiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	4,480
Hefei Anhui Provincial Service in Mandarin	2,830
Nanchang Jiangxi Provincial Service in Mandarin	7,260
Nanjing Jiangsu Provincial Service in Mandarin	4,670

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Shanghai City Service in Mandarin	5,930		
Beijing XINHUA in English		541,060	
Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese		115,110	
Beijing BEIJING REVIEW in English			8,140
Fuzhou FUJIAN RIBAO in Chinese			7,670
Hefei ANHUI RIBAO in Chinese			1,620
Hangzhou ZHEJIANG RIBAO in Chinese			5,740
Nanjing XINHUA RIBAO in Chinese			5,200
Shanghai JIEFANG RIBAO in Chinese			1,940
Shanghai WEN HUI BAO in Chinese			960
Miscellaneous Editorial Reports	3,070		
JAPAN			
Naha Radio NHK in Japanese	---		
Naha NHK Television Network in Japanese	530		
Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese	3,730		
Tokyo JPS in English		1,240	
Tokyo KYODO in English		108,860	
Tokyo JLJI in English		10,680	
Tokyo AKAHATA in Japanese			---
Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese			2,540
Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English			10,250
Tokyo JAPAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English			580
Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English			4,410

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese			1,460
Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese			6,320
Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese			1,400
Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI in English			6,870
Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in English			3,500
Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese			---
Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese			2,950
Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese			540
Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese			2,060
KOREA (NORTH)			
Pyongyang KCNA in English		---	
LAOS			
Vientiane KPL in English		---	
MONGOLIA			
Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English		5,060	
Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian		2,900	
TAIWAN			
Taipei International Service in English	6,900		
Taipei Domestic Service in Mandarin	720		
Taipei CNA in English		22,510	
Taipei CHINA POST in English			9,050
Taipei CHING CHI JIH PAO in Chinese			1,160
Taipei CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO in Chinese			2,100
Taipei CHUNG YANG JIH PAO in Chinese			---

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Taipei LIEN HO PAO in Chinese			---
Taipei TZU LI WAN PAO in Chinese			680
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow to Japan in Japanese	3,480		
Moscow to Southeast Asia in Mandarin	1,200		
Moscow to China in Mandarin	8,720		
Moscow to Vietnam in Vietnamese	3,250		
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress to China in Mandarin	1,300		
Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian	12,530		
VIETNAM			
Hanoi International Service in Mandarin	160		
Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	---		
Hanoi VNA in English		55,600	
Hanoi VNA in French			---