



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



MSK-7010
4 May 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Acting Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - April 1987

I. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. April proved to be one of the most challenging months in recent Bureau history with a series of significant events in the Koreas pushing Bureau wordage to an all-time high of 766,000. The Korean Unit translated over 40 percent of the total; processed wordage from Pyongyang Domestic Service alone came to 260,000. ✓

2. In the DPRK celebrations marking Kim Il-song's 75th birthday on the 15th, with many foreign delegations attending, generated a considerable amount of copy, as did the Korean People's Army anniversary on the 25th. But these events were overshadowed by a Supreme People's Assembly session held from 21-23 April, which was devoted to a new 7-year economic plan and budget reports. About 75,000 words of material on the SPA session were filed. Before the SPA dust had really begun to settle, on the 24th a spokesman of the DPRK State Administration Council issued a statement blasting the South for turning down the North's proposals for high-level North-South talks, and stressing that Pyongyang had no intention of "begging" Seoul to negotiate. The statement kicked off a propaganda campaign against the South that continued into May. But the North apparently has not completely ruled out a resumption of talks. A NODDONG SINMUN commentary on Pyongyang radio on the 30th pointedly stated that the "door to dialogue" is still open as far as the North is concerned. Events in the DPRK generated the largest processing backlog in recent Bureau history. At one point more than nine hours of voice material was backed up in the processing queue. The backlog was cleared with Headquarters approval of monitorial overtime.

3. In the South two major events occurred in April that have already altered the domestic political situation. First was the formal break-up of the opposition NKDP due to severe internal strains, and the establishment of the Reunification Democratic Party led by factions representing Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam. Seizing on the fractured

opposition and the complete deadlock in constitutional revision negotiations, President Chon Tu-hwan on the 13th issued a statement decreeing that any revision of the constitution will be postponed until after the 1988 Olympics, and that his successor as president will be elected by February 1988 under the current constitution. This seems certain to engender additional political ferment in the coming months. The Bureau texted Chon's statement on a priority basis for Headquarters consumers at the Wire's request.

B. Communications

On 28 April the Bureau's Mode II primary communications circuit was upgraded from 74.2 to 150 baud. To accomplish the upgrade, bureau technicians installed new variable speed Comscribe printers, which were received from Headquarters earlier in the month. In addition to doubling the speed of the circuit, the new printers provide more readable copy than the aging Extels they replaced. The Bureau's backup Mode V circuit remains at 74.2 baud.

C. Lateral Services

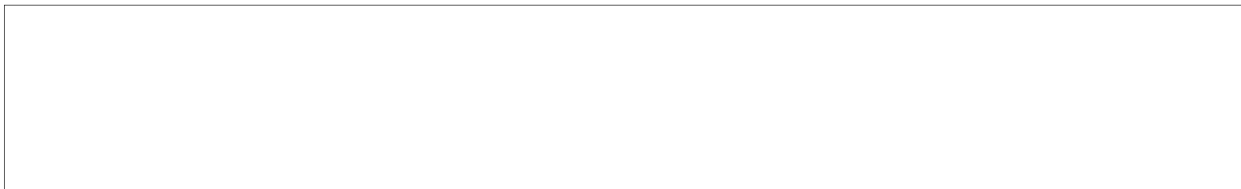
A team of civil engineers from Fort Shafter, Hawaii, was in Seoul for much of April preparing an analysis of North Korea's planned Kungansan dam, which the ROK Government claims is a significant military threat to the South. On 30 April one of the engineers, Dr. James Dexter, visited the Bureau to view a Pyongyang television program devoted to the dam project. The program was originally broadcast on 25 December 1986. Dr. Dexter found the program very useful and requested a copy of the tape. The Bureau mailed the tape to MOD for conversion to the NTSC system and forwarding to Dr. Dexter in Hawaii.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Building & Grounds

Supplemental air conditioning units, ordered from the United States last September, were installed in the editorial and communications rooms during the weekend of 18 and 19 April. Both rooms suffer from inadequate ventilation and have been uncomfortably hot for many years. The new air conditioning units have greatly improved the work environment for both editors and communicators.

B. Security



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Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau
Deputy Chief, Bangkok Bureau

Seoul Bureau Production Report for April 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	765940
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	164950
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1646

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	13265.00 min.	5510.00 min.	100.23 issues

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

CHINA

Beijing International service in Korean to Korea	2600		
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	0		
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	5800		
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	5500		
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	14010		
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	10650		
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	5870		
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	330		
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	1950		
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese			26270
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese			42150
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese			29830
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese			6470
Shenyang DONGBEI JINGJI BAO in Chinese			4400
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese			32450
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese			6420

- 2 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in Chinese			200
CLANDESTINE (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea	32100		
KOREA (NORTH)			
Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	259640		
Pyongyang Television Service in Korean	800		
Pyongyang KCNA in English		159490	
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			1100
Pyongyang NODONG SINHUN in Korean			0
KOREA (SOUTH)			
Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	1360		
Seoul Television Service in Korean	0		
Seoul YONHAP in English		22880	
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			1700
Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean			100
Seoul Editorial Report on ROK Media Korean			0
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			4800
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			0
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			850
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			38120
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			35600
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			2400
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow International Service in Korean	10100		