



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



MSK-7004
4 February 1987

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

I. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. After several months of relative and welcome lull, the Bureau's January wordage jumped to nearly 650,000, the highest total since last July. The Korean and Chinese units both contributed to the increased workload: translated Korean wordage totaled 270,000, and the Chinese figure was nearly 160,000. Provincial campaigns in the PRC against "bourgeois liberalism" accounted for a large portion of the Chinese total.

2. On the 22nd the ROK/US Combined Forces Command announced that the 1987 "Team Spirit" exercises will be held from 19 February until early May. The announced starting and completion dates are somewhat later than in previous years. After a number of commentaries and editorials denouncing "Team Spirit," Pyongyang has muted its campaign against the exercise, at least temporarily, possibly at least in part because late in the month the South accepted a letter from the North proposing high-level political and military talks. Embassy and military consumers, as in past years, are using Bureau material to track Pyongyang's reaction to the exercise.

3. The torture death on 14 January of a Seoul National University student in police custody has led to further political turmoil on the ROK domestic political scene. The uproar over the student's death -- officially he is reported to have died after having his head held under water for long periods during questioning -- resulted in the sacking of the home minister and national police chief and has caused great political damage to the government and ruling DJP. It has also pumped new life into the fortunes of the opposition NKDP, and has moved prolonged inter-party negotiations over constitutional revision back to square one. The Bureau has filed a large amount of material from both Koreas on the affair, which serves as one more reminder that a single incident such as this can ignite the entire ROK political landscape. The opposition has set 7 February as a "national memorial" day with rallies and other events to commemorate the student's death.

B. Lateral Services

1. On 31 December Ambassador Lilley visited the Bureau to express New Year wishes. He also took the occasion to view Pyongyang television footage of Kim Il-song's "policy speech," given the previous day during a session of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly. The Ambassador found the footage of Kim and his son Kim Chong-il very interesting, and requested that the Bureau put together a short clip showing various scenes of the two Kims in action. The clip was prepared early the following week, and was reviewed by the Ambassador, the DCM and the Political Counselor. At the Ambassador's request, the clip was sent to MOD on the 14th for conversion to the NTSC system and forwarding to senior State Department officers concerned with Korean affairs.

2. On 30 January the Bureau Chief received a letter of appreciation from Col. John E. Riddle, commander of the U.S. Army 501st Military Intelligence Brigade, for Bureau reporting during the Kim Il-song "death" rumor period in November and the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly session in late December. The letter says in part: "The support, analysis and timely information provided by you and your staff proved invaluable to our liaison activities with Republic of Korea governmental agencies and our ability to sort through the mass influx of data which surrounded these two incidents." It included specific thanks for the support provided by Deputy Chief [redacted] and Senior Editor [redacted]

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C. Technical

On the 30th the Bureau Chief, [redacted] who was on an official visit to the Bureau, visited Pyongtaek and discussed with Signals Maintenance personnel the renovation of the Bureau's antenna field. We learned that completion of the new antenna that the Bureau will eventually use has been delayed further. Completion is not expected before the end of March, and will be followed by a period of operational testing. After the testing is completed -- perhaps by the end of April -- the Bureau will be able to tie into the new antenna, which may improve our reception of some PRC provincial stations.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. During January the Bureau received approval from Headquarters to implement a new FBN Compensation Plan for local employees. Implementation of the new plan is retroactive to 6 July 1986. As has been the case for several years, salaries for employees in lower FBN grades remain frozen at the previous level; this year's increase only affects employees in grades FBN-9 and above.

2. Chinese Monitor [redacted] who has been on maternity leave since early in December, delivered a baby boy on 4 January. Mother and son are doing well, and Amy expects to return to work early in March.

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B. Building & Grounds

The Bureau has received word from Embassy GSO that two supplemental air conditioning units which were ordered from the United States in September arrived in Pusan on 27 January. The new units, which will be installed in the editorial and main radio rooms, should be delivered to GSO by 12 February and installed by about the end of the month.

IV. VISITS

1. chief of Field Support Branch of FED, visited the Bureau from 28-31 January as part of a tour of Far East bureaus.

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2. Major Charles Davenport, from the C-2 PsyOps Division of the ROK/US Combined Forces Command, and Karen Jones, from the 9th Battalion of the 4th PsyOps Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, visited the Bureau on the 22nd for an orientation and briefing.

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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 January 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	647490
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	139110
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1307

	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	2700		
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	0		
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	9200		
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	8080		
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	14420		
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	9920		
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	12500		
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	480		
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	5360		
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese			4110
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese			0
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese			23910
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese			20220
Shenyang DONGBEI JINGJI BAO in Chinese			1700
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese			16170
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese			28410

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in Chinese			800
CLANDESTINE (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea	23000		
KOREA (NORTH)			
Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	220770		
Pyongyang Television Service in Korean	0		
Pyongyang KCNA in English		118240	
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			11400
Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean			2500
KOREA (SOUTH)			
Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	2270		
Seoul Television Service in Korean	0		
Seoul YONHAP in English		26370	
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			2550
Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean			1150
Seoul Editorial Report on ROK Media korean			0
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			700
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			750
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			800
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			31490
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			43670
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			2450
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow International Service in Korean	1400		