

**SECRET**

*DIFBIS  
Crons*

23 January 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Group

FROM:

[Redacted]

25X1

Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT:

VCR Recording of News Broadcasts

REFERENCE:

Memo from DDI to DDCI

Jerry:

1. Please prepare a brief memo outlining our plan for tackling this problem, for COB Wednesday, 30 January. I would like to send something to the DDS&T before my departure. MOD was previously designated the action office. The plan should include a simple breakdown of major costs: contractors, shipping, VCR procurement, conversion equipment, additional Headquarters personnel. We should not spare the horses; it may be necessary to hire part-time contractors here to meet the planes, etc.

2. Inasmuch as [Redacted] has been in contact with the office directors on the live television project, perhaps he can clarify some of the requirements: i.e., how many newscasts a day. I suggest we try to start with simply the main evening newscasts and special events. Also, suggest we do the Tokyo recording in Tokyo, the Beijing recording in Beijing, etc. Shipping time may not be any faster from a bureau than from a major city.

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3. My suspicion is that this will go on for many years, so let's set it up right.

[Redacted]

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Attachment

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[Redacted]

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**SUBJECT: VCR Recording of News Broadcasts**

DDS&T/FBIS, [redacted] (23 Jan 85)

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**Distribution:**

- Orig - Addressee (w/att)
- 1 - DD/FBIS (w/att)
- 1 - C/AG for [redacted] (w/att)
- 1 - C/Prod (w/att)
- 1 - C/MOD (w/att)
- 1 - C/ED (w/att)
- 1 - C/DRD (w/att)
- 1 - C/AS (w/att)
- 1 - AC/E&PS (w/att)
- 1 - C/LRB (w/att)
- 1 - C/B&F (w/att)
- 1 - D/FBIS Chrono (w/att)
- 1 - JDC Corres file (w/att)
- 1 - FBIS Registry (w/att)

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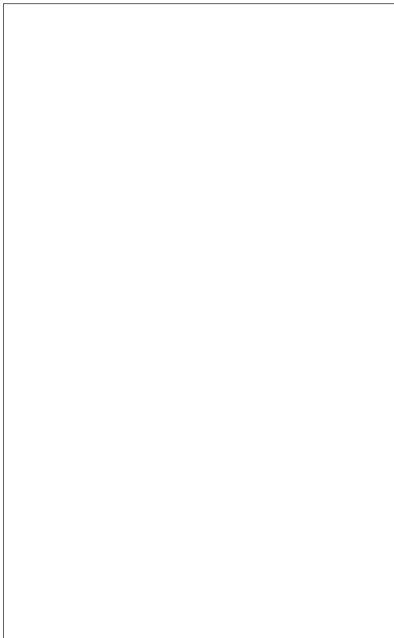
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DDI#00197-85  
11 January 1985

NOTE TO: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence  
SUBJECT: Candidate Cities for VCR Recording of News Broadcasts

In response to our discussion [redacted] last Monday night and your tasking, I list below the twelve cities the offices would regard as their top priorities for getting video cassette recordings of news programs. They are listed in priority order.

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Obviously, the sooner we could get the recordings after the broadcast the more useful they would be. There is considerable diversity of opinion in the Directorate about the value of such recordings, but all agree that an experiment such as this would help us move beyond speculation and opinion stage to having some actual experience. My guess is there will be considerable variation in utility, with some being of considerable value and others not worth the effort.

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Robert M. Gates

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