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FBIS-1114/86

21 APR 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Research and Development

FROM:

[Redacted Name]

Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT: Study of Digital Signal Processing for FBIS

1. This memo requests that ORD consider conducting a limited feasibility study of digital storage and transmission techniques for TV signals in order to determine whether it is realistic for FBIS to include them in its planning in the next few years.

2. FBIS has no funds for this project. However, we believe it would be valuable to other components beyond FBIS alone. Members of FBIS Monitoring Operations Division and Advanced Development Division have already discussed the idea with [Redacted Name] of the Technical Applications Branch of ORD/ISRD. He indicates that ORD is working on related issues and could probably undertake the study this year.

3. Techniques for data compression, digital transmission, and digital storage of video signals are becoming more practical and less expensive. This progress may reach the point that FBIS would need to write requirements by 1988 for using this technology in its operations.

4. The use of digital technology in TV signal handling would introduce new issues into the FBIS modernization effort, including:

a. The ability to monitor digital signals from satellite transmissions via ROSET installations.

b. Increased capacity for relaying monitored TV signals to Headquarters over limited-bandwidth INTERNET satellite communications channels.

c. New systems for archiving and retrieving large volumes of video programs via computer.

5. These are possible benefits for all community users of TV, and the study itself may have wider application for Agency components interested in image enhancement, image recognition, and data compression in general.

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6. Please contact of the Advanced Development
Division on ext. if there are any questions.

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(21 Mar 86)

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