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7 July 1986

25X1 MEMORANDUM FOR:
CIA Member CIPC Working Group

25X1 FROM:
Deputy Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT: Input to CIPC Study on NFIP Support to Contingency Operations

1. FBIS offers broad support to military contingency operations around the world. FBIS bureaus directly provide military commands with information on political/military developments, including alerts. Some 200 military commands and units, at their request, receive materials from FBIS field bureaus on topics ranging from immediate messages on worldwide military actions, mobilizations, and coups to speeches on disarmament and articles on epidemiology. The information in these messages provides basic intelligence, updates on developing situations, and assessments of any action taken. Recent terrorist actions, including the Achille Lauro and the hijacking in Lebanon, and the U.S. strike on Libya are examples of incidents where FBIS field reportage has provided early information of interest to military and intelligence planners.

2. On request, FBIS Headquarters personnel provide special translation and analytic services to military components. Translation services include maps, Bloc articles on military theory, and articles from technical journals from around the world. Analytical articles of special interest to military consumers include careful comparisons of current Soviet disarmament proposals with their proposals in the past. Selected analyses are filed direct to field and FBIS wire consumers.

3. FBIS bases its support to military components on official requirements lists, but revises requirements to meet changing situations as crises develop. FBIS also periodically asks for revalidation of consumer requirements. For fast-breaking events, FBIS works closely with operations centers in CIA and other IC offices. Both the NMIC and the NMCC are consumers of the FBIS wire service, and they in turn feed the FBIS product to ad hoc working groups and task forces via pony lines. Recent examples of NMCC use of FBIS materials include a 3 July DPRK report of an SR-71 overflight violation and a 2 July KCNA report of a Soviet fleet visit to the DPRK, both of which were used in briefings to the Joint Chiefs. Earlier examples include

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a report run by FBIS from Libyan media threatening destruction to the U.S. fleet if it dared cross the "line of death" in the Gulf of Sidra.

4. FBIS is currently engaged in a modernization program which will provide more consumers with rapid electronic dissemination of FBIS items of interest to them. Plans include real-time television transmission from around the world, rapid transmission of fax reproductions of newspapers to Washington consumers, and automaton of FBIS files to permit quick thematic searches and profiling of consumer requirements. FBIS has been involved in discussions with DOD elements to ascertain how its modernization effort can be coordinated with DOD plans and made available to DOD elements.

5. The major problem of support in crisis situations is that communications facilities are seldom sufficient to get all important information to consumers in timely fashion. Overloading of communications links often results in long delays in priority traffic, and even immediate FBIS messages may not get to consumers in time to take action in fast-breaking incidents. Communications upgrades are urgently needed.



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