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**Foreign Broadcast
Information Service**

NEWSLETTER

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FBIS Newsletter

87-6

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Notice

Field facilities are reminded that copies of this Newsletter should be destroyed after reading by U.S. staff employees. This Newsletter is not to be retained in field facilities.

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Management Views

With this issue the FBIS Newsletter begins a regular section in which FBIS management answers employee questions on topics of general interest. To initiate the section, the questions below were posed to

Director of FBIS, on 30 November 1987:

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Question: The past 6 months have been a time of exceptional change at FBIS Headquarters, highlighted by the move from Rosslyn to Reston, the incorporation of the JPRS sections into their respective Production Group divisions, and the introduction of the unclassified segment of the Automated FBIS System. From your perspective, how have these changes gone and where do we stand?

Answer: Looking back on the last 6 months and measuring what we have accomplished against our expectations, I think we all would agree that the people of FBIS adjusted very well to the turmoil. The move from Rosslyn was traumatic for some of our employees, as was the change in the way Ops and Prod Group do their business. I think without exception we planned for and executed these transitions in exceptional fashion.

Perhaps the most traumatic event was the transition to an automated system which, even had it performed perfectly, would have provided a significant challenge to the Daily Report, the Wire, and to Prod Group. Clearly, our expectations of how this new system would work were higher than they should have been in some cases, but that having been said, we are all disappointed in the system performance to date. There seems to be a reasonable, finite set of discrepancies and features that are bothersome to the users, but these can be corrected over time. All of these discrepancies are far overshadowed by the system-wide problems of timeliness, both in the sense of movement of message traffic and response time to the user. Since August, the entire focus of attention has been on that aspect of the system performance. At this time it is not clear that there is a single satisfactory solution to the problems. The computer industry has some "canned" answers to problems of this nature, but FBIS cannot be satisfied with "canned" answers without having those answers supported by detailed analysis. That process is ongoing and hopefully the major issues affecting system timeliness will be resolved. I am optimistic that we will eliminate these problems, but share everyone's concern about when. The clock is ticking on our classified system--due in the next calendar year--and if we have not resolved the questions and the issues of the unclassified system we will find ourselves in a very, very awkward position.

Overall, my sense is that the initial period of change went fairly well, the nagging issues of AFS performance will be resolved, and the long delayed "tuning" of the system will proceed at a relatively constant level of effort.

I should note that our products continue to flow and, with one or two exceptions, the Wire has been able to fill its Community-wide role. I also sense that the reaction to Reston has been very positive. In talking with employees about Reston, I detect a general acceptance of the location, facilities, and new furniture. We still have a number of things to do here in the complex to establish this building as the FBIS Headquarters and to complete the furnishings. Slowly but surely we will achieve this, too.

Question: As we settle in at Reston, what do you foresee as the main concerns of FBIS managers in 1988?

Answer: Fiscal year 1988 as viewed from fiscal year 1987 had many, many challenges for not only the managers in FBIS, but most of the employees. As noted earlier, our period of adjustment is still ongoing. Overshadowing all of that, however, are concerns with the budget. The Congressional deficit reduction actions and the Gramm-Rudman reductions, along with other Agency-wide cuts, will have a severe impact on FBIS.

I do want to assure all of our employees that there is no intention to reduce our personnel or in any way impact on the work force. The Agency position has been that we will absorb these many budget reductions without affecting our people. We are going to be hard pressed to continue to provide the current level of collection, production, and analysis in the face of these massive reductions. Needless to say, the momentum of the modernization program may well be lost.

FY 1988 clearly will be a challenge for everyone in FBIS. In some areas we are going to have to maintain our productivity with fewer financial resources than in the past or, because of hiring limitations, without being able to fill branches which are working far below required strength, or perhaps making do with equipment and/or services which should have been replaced some time ago.

Unfortunately, these budget reductions are not limited to FY 1988 and the carryover effect into FY 1989 will also be felt by FBIS. Fortunately, we have been able to plan for these budget reductions without affecting the support to our consumers and that is really what FBIS is all about. My hope is that we will be able to do so in the future.

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Do you have a question for FBIS management? If so, send it to FBIS Newsletter,

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Modernization Program Update

The multiyear FBIS Modernization Program began in 1984. It involves automation, communications, and satellite monitoring. The Engineering Support Group provides the following update on the status of the various aspects of modernization:

Automation

The first phase of Headquarters automation became a reality in July 1987 with the transition to our new facility in Reston. The Headquarters Unclassified Segment is operational, although it has been experiencing "birthing pains" as editors and system operators learn to exploit the system. Wire Service and DRD products are being produced entirely on the AFS system, and the number of "automated" JPRS reports has been increasing daily. Lockheed is working to eliminate the "bugs," and we expect to make some hardware upgrades to speed up certain functions that currently take longer than anticipated. [redacted]

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Work on the Headquarters Classified Segment (HCS) is entering the final stages, with delivery of all hardware now expected around late spring of 1988. The system is expected to be operational by late in the year. Recent cuts in the modernization program budget have forced cutbacks in the total number of HCS user terminals originally forecast. [redacted]

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The automation of field bureaus is progressing on schedule with the automation of the sixth bureau, Panama, currently undergoing installation. To date, Vienna, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Okinawa, and Tel Aviv are utilizing the FBA-1 system. The Field Engineering Review Board at Headquarters is actively considering numerous recommendations on improving the existing FBA configuration, not least of which is improving the press agency capture and data base management system. Concurrent with bureau automation is an ongoing effort to upgrade field bureau communications. Eventually all bureaus will be transmitting/receiving at much higher rates than at present. Coordination delays among the various controlling agencies, including [redacted] [redacted] have slowed our commo upgrade plans. Budgetary pressures are also negatively impacting FBA-2 development plans. [redacted]

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The INTERNET system provides satellite communication capabilities between FBIS Headquarters and certain overseas locations. It can be used for transmitting TV, audio, data, and facsimile signals between any of the INTERNET stations. The only two active stations at this time are London and Washington. Due to political controversies, the Panama link was never allowed to go operational. London Bureau operationally uses the INTERNET link to send TV and we are testing FAX transmissions. The INTERNET concept is the basis for strategic planning to significantly

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improve FBIS worldwide communications capabilities and allow for real-time delivery of important television coverage. Planning for other INTERNET sites is dependent upon current political conditions and impacts of budget cuts. There are no INTERNET sites planned for FY-88. The ITS (Information Transmission System, formerly known as INTELSAT Business Service, or IBS) data service via INTERNET is a technically feasible program, but near-term implementation is unlikely due to funding shortfalls and prospects of drawn out negotiations to secure host government approvals.

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ROSET

Receive-Only Satellite Earth Terminals (ROSETs) have been installed in London, Okinawa, Panama, Vienna, Bangkok, Paraguay, and Nicosia (Nicosia being the newest). These antennas provide the basis for satellite reception of TV, FM, facsimile, and remote teletype signals. The equipment ranges from 13-meter receiving systems to small and relatively inexpensive 2.8-meter configurations. Future plans include an additional ROSET installation in Paraguay and possibly one in Okinawa in FY-88.

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Headquarters Developments

The Agency's Executive Committee has selected FBIS as executive agent for the Open Source Information Exchange (OSIX) initiative. The move tasks FBIS with establishing an Open Source Center containing an on-line data base of FBIS and other open source products for use by other USG agencies. The center would also house additional staff to coordinate open source coverage with other providers and users of such information. A memorandum of understanding between FBIS, OIT, and OIR is being drafted to outline the key responsibilities of each office. Intelligence Community funding of necessary dollar and personnel resources for this initiative, planned for the FY90-92 timeframe, is yet to be determined. [redacted]

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Prior to General Secretary Gorbachev's arrival in Washington for the U.S.-USSR summit, the Soviet Embassy asked USIA's Worldnet service to provide videotapes of Moscow television's main evening newscast to show to Gorbachev and his delegation during their visit. Worldnet asked the FBIS Television Center for its assistance in meeting the Soviet request. FBIS responded during the visit by providing tapes of the program to Worldnet to convey to the Soviet Embassy. FBIS also provided Langley consumers with live coverage of special Moscow television programs on Gorbachev's visit. [redacted]

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On 9 December the President's Daily Brief featured an FBIS report on Soviet media treatment of the Washington summit. The report was prepared by Parley Newman of Analysis Group using information filed by London Bureau and PMU. [redacted]

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On 2 December the FBIS Foreign Language Service Center at Headquarters received a call from the Arms Control Intelligence Staff requesting the immediate translation of the draft Soviet proposal on the INF treaty. The draft was at that moment coming in via facsimile from Geneva, and ACSI had to send a response to Geneva within 24 hours. FLASC officer [redacted] translated the key portion of the text--the first six pages--on the spot and completed the remaining 64 pages by the next morning. [redacted]

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Five Headquarters officers conducted a workshop on JPRS automation for about 30 JPRS contractors in New Mexico in October. The workshop was held during the annual conference of the American Translators Association in Albuquerque. [redacted]

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Farther west, [redacted] C/ESG, briefed FBIS retirees on the West Coast at their annual reunion in Santa Rosa, California, 2-4 October. [redacted]

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The S&T Unit chiefs were at Headquarters 26-30 October to attend a Production Group management conference and to meet with consumers and FBIS officers. [redacted]

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A DI research paper, "Chernobyl: A Year Later," notes that knowledge of the operations and shortcomings of Chernobyl-type reactors "is derived largely from FBIS translations of Soviet technical literature." [redacted]

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Field Developments

Since Okinawa Bureau lost its Pesos satellite dish to a typhoon in late August, ill winds have blown on several other FBIS bureaus elsewhere on the globe. In mid-September a strong wind damaged the television antenna used by Paraguay Bureau to monitor Argentine television. A month later, operations at London Bureau were disrupted overnight when hurricane-force winds caused power outages at Caversham and Crowsley Park. Back-up power generators at both sites failed, causing some loss of coverage. The BBC tasked its engineers with adopting procedures to prevent a repetition of such generator failures. In late November heavy rain and hail in Asuncion damaged the feed horn of a satellite dish at the American Embassy, causing a 2-day communications outage at Paraguay Bureau. At Key West Bureau, hurricane shutters ordered in September for the windows and glass doors of its houses were not in place when Hurricane Floyd passed over the area on 12 October, but no damage from the storm was reported. [redacted]

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Hong Kong Bureau inaugurated its remote monitoring unit in the Philippines on 2 November on a limited basis. Using equipment and communication lines installed at the American Embassy in Manila, the bureau can remotely tune and receive AM and FM radios. Full capability of the unit, including television monitoring, was scheduled to be achieved by using a contractor to handle functions requiring manual operations. [redacted]

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Okinawa Bureau now can look back upon a trying time in late October when the bureau's most important coverage event in 5 years, the 13th Chinese Communist Party Congress, coincided with inauguration of the FBA-1 computer system and numerous crashes thereof, the worst communications outages in recent memory, and a large number of people coming and going. Among the visitors during the period was the DDS&T. [redacted]

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Panama Bureau reported in November that U.S.-Panamanian relations were at their lowest point in 20 years. Also, local unrest was continuing with no end in sight. During a government roundup of opposition activists in October one of the bureau's local employees and his family were caught on the streets and summarily sentenced to 180 days in prison. They were freed after a day and a half of confinement. [redacted]

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Seoul Bureau staffers [redacted] earned second place in the Korea-wide Trivial Pursuit team championships. Earlier they won first place in the Korea central region competition. [redacted]

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Islamabad Unit Chief [redacted] raised \$662 for the International School of Islamabad in September when he made 241 out of 250 foul shots during a basketball fundraiser sponsored by the school. [redacted]

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People

Career Intelligence Medal

<p>[redacted] who retired in the spring after 31 years with FBIS as an editor, supervisor, and manager, received the Career Intelligence Medal in a ceremony on 23 October. During his career [redacted] served at Headquarters in Operations, Analysis, and Production Groups. In the field, he served at West Coast, Hokkaido, Vienna, London, and Mediterranean Bureaus and Athens Unit. In 1973 [redacted] was among the Mediterranean Bureau staff members evacuated from Cyprus following the Turkish invasion and was awarded a Certificate of Distinction for his performance at the time. Just prior to his retirement [redacted] was chief of the Field Coverage Branch in Monitoring Operations Division. [redacted]</p>	<p>25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1</p>
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Staff Award

<p>[redacted]</p>	<p>OPS/DRD</p>	<p>Exceptional Accomplishment</p>	<p>25X1</p>
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Foreign National Awards

<p>[redacted]</p>	<p>London Bangkok Bangkok Hong Kong Hong Kong Hong Kong Paraguay Bangkok London Bangkok Bangkok Bangkok Swaziland London Seoul</p>	<p>Special Achievement Special Achievement Special Achievement Exceptional Accomplishment Exceptional Accomplishment Exceptional Accomplishment Exceptional Accomplishment Special Achievement Special Achievement Special Achievement Special Achievement Special Achievement Special Achievement Special Achievement</p>	<p>25X1</p>
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Calendar Notes

Looking Back

- 10 years ago -- Talks were under way in December 1977 to terminate unsuccessful RAPID project to automate Daily Report and Wire, begun in 1973.
- 20 years ago -- London Press Monitoring Unit began operating from Wembley Park offices in December 1967, one result of the FBIS merger earlier in the year with the Foreign Documents Division of the Office of Central Reference; in Puerto Rico, new Caribbean Bureau, being constructed underneath spider web-like "wire-grid lens" antenna, neared completion; Okinawa Bureau began full-scale use of SATRAP device for relaying Chinese radioteletype material.
- 40 years ago -- In December 1947, National Security Council Intelligence Directive 6, the post-war FBIS "charter," was issued to the 3-month-old CIA; DCI approved setting up an FBIS monitoring facility on Cyprus; Engineering Staff established, with the appointment of [] as chief engineer. 25X1
- 46 years ago -- In December 1941, the fledgling Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service, having earlier established its main radio monitoring site at Silver Hill, Maryland, and a field listening post in Portland, Oregon, established monitoring posts in Santurce, Puerto Rico, and Kingsville, Texas; propaganda analysts began a weekly serial that noted on 6 December that Tokyo broadcasts had become "hostile and defiant"; the first director of the service, Lloyd A. Free, returned from London on 23 December and told press that his mission--to establish U.S.-UK cooperation in radio monitoring-- had been "quite successful." [] 25X1

Looking Ahead

- 31 December 1987 -- Deadline for selecting retirement systems.
- 3 January 1988 -- GS-11 and GS-15 promotions effective.
- 9 January 1988 -- Open house at FBIS Headquarters.
- 18 January 1988 -- Deadline for Secretary of the Year Nominations-
- 5 February 1988 -- D/FBIS visits Key West and Latin American and African bureaus.

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