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**Foreign Broadcast
Information Service**

NEWSLETTER

Edition 87-4

1 July 1987

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NOTICE

Field Bureaus 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 bureaus.

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FBIS NEWSLETTER

1 July 1987

INTERNET OPERATION AT PANAMA BUREAU CEASES

After the prolonged negotiations required to get INTERNET operating in Panama, INTERNET relays from the bureau fell victim to the current political turmoil in the country and the increasing tension between the U.S. and Panamanian governments. On 30 June, one day after the start of feeds, the Panamanian Government forced a cessation of INTERNET operations, maintaining that "final" approval had not been granted. The Panamanian diplomatic note that had granted approval for INTERNET had made no mention of any required "final" approval, so it seems clear that this action resulted from the government's current unhappiness with the U.S. attitude toward Panama. Rather than risk formal Panamanian disapproval by pushing the issue, further action by the bureau and Embassy to reinstate INTERNET operations will depend on an easing of the political situation and U.S.-Panamanian tension. [redacted]

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LONDON INTERNET AUGMENTED WITH TEHRAN FEEDS

While political problems have prevented Panama's inclusion in the system, the INTERNET schedule from London has been augmented with feeds of Tehran's daily evening newscast. A commercial contractor in Tel Aviv records the newscasts, which are picked up by courier and sent by air to London, from where they are relayed to Headquarters via INTERNET. This arrangement began on 1 June and has been working well, with tapes arriving in London within 24-72 hours of broadcast. When Nicosia's new ROSET dishes are installed in the near future, responsibility for taping and forwarding the newscasts will be assumed by Nicosia Bureau. [redacted]

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INDEPENDENT HILL-LANGLEY MICROWAVE LINK SETBACK

The microwave link [redacted] Langley received another setback when the Prince William County Planning Commission voted against granting a use permit for a relay tower [redacted]. Subsequently, however, the contractor responsible for the link was able to get approval for a direct microwave path [redacted] to Tysons Corner, from where signals will be relayed on to Langley. Some additional equipment is required, but the link to Langley is expected to be in operation by the end of August. In the meantime, INTERNET feeds are continuing to be taken by the Langley dish. [redacted]

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MOVE TO RESTON BEGINS ON SCHEDULE

The FBIS move to Reston began on schedule with the Engineering Support Group (minus Field Engineering Division) the first to move, on 13 July, followed by the Administrative Staff and Liaison & Requirements Branch on 20 July. Completion of the move is still expected by early September. [redacted]

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NEW COVERS FOR JPRS AND DAILY REPORTS

New cover designs and colors for JPRS and Daily reports became effective 1 June. Names and colors of geographical JPRS and Daily reports now match for the first time, making for improved FBIS report identification. A black line running horizontally across the front cover and around the fold distinguishes JPRS reports from Daily reports from the side. [redacted]

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FIELD BUREAU AUTOMATION REACHES FIRST MILESTONE

Automation of FBIS field bureaus reached its first milestone with the completion of installation and integration work at the Austrian Bureau on 3 June. The system allows for soft copy handling throughout the production process--from monitor to editor to communications operator--with hard copy backup. FBA-I proceeded on to Hong Kong bureau where work was completed and operations started on 15 July. Phase I of field bureau automation will continue this year with the bureaus in Bangkok, Okinawa, Tel Aviv, and Panama. [redacted]

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KEY WEST BUREAU BEGINS OPERATION IN HAITI

To improve coverage of Haiti, Key West Bureau arranged for a local contractor in Port-au-Prince, the former FBIS monitor [redacted] to provide translations of Creole/French broadcasts, which cannot be heard well in Key West. The operation, located in the Embassy in Port-au-Prince, began business with the transmission of the first copy using modems and international telephone lines from Haiti to Key West on 30 June. [redacted]

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FBIS RECEIVES KUDOS FROM BEIJING EMBASSY

FBIS received a message of praise from the American Embassy in Beijing for its "excellent" media analysis report on Yang Shangkun's visit to the United States. The message stated that the Embassy is "consistently impressed by the quality and timeliness of FBIS analytical reporting" and found the report on Yang's visit to be "particularly useful in putting this major event into perspective." [redacted]

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[redacted] RECEIVES CAREER INTELLIGENCE MEDAL

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Deputy Director FBIS [redacted] acting for Director FBIS, presented the Career Intelligence Medal to former FBIS careerist [redacted] on 10 June. [redacted] retired last October, after nearly 30 years of government service with FBIS. The citation stressed her "high intelligence, sharp political intuition, and her outstanding editing, writing, and analytical skills." [redacted] was particularly recognized as an authoritative analyst on Soviet Middle East policy, and her last assignment in FBIS was as Deputy Chief, London Bureau. [redacted]

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SENIOR ANALYST PROGRAM NOMINEES APPROVED

Four nominees from Analysis Group have received directorate approval as members of the new Senior Analyst Program. This program becomes part of the Senior Scientist, Engineer, and Analyst Program providing an expert track for advancement parallel to the management track. [redacted] [redacted] have been inducted into the program. Meanwhile, [redacted] are spending two years in the Community-wide Exceptional Analyst Program. [redacted]

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[redacted] FUND TOTALS \$3,500

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In June the [redacted] Fund was closed. FBIS employees' contributions and proceeds of the bake sale totaled \$3,500. Of this, \$1,500 went directly to the family last fall to help meet immediate expenses. The balance was used to purchase savings bonds, with a 1994 maturity value of \$4,000, for [redacted] son [redacted]. The concern and financial support of FBIS employees have been deeply appreciated. [redacted]

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SPECIAL SERVICES TO WHITE HOUSE, OTHERS

In response to a White House Situation Room request on 26 May and later VOA inquiries, FBIS contacted its Key West Bureau to confirm reports that the Soviet Union had begun broadcasting English-language radio programs to the United States using Cuban medium-wave transmitters. The bureau confirmed the reports and provided further details after monitoring checks were conducted on 31 May. [redacted]

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Jordan and Nicosia bureaus reopened after normal closing hours on 17 May to provide coverage of area sources following the attack on the USS Stark in the Persian Gulf. Together with London Bureau, these two bureaus provided comprehensive reporting that allowed the FBIS Wire to forward regular and timely updates on media treatment as well as factual reportage on the incident to consumers in Headquarters, the White House, and the Pentagon. [redacted]

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The forced retirement of USSR Defense Minister Sokolov on 30 May and his replacement by Dmitriy Yazov occasioned the issuance of a Critic by the Wire Service. The TASS English report announcing the Soviet actions, filed at flash precedence from the London Bureau, was entered into the Critic system approximately 2 minutes before the Western news agencies carried the story. When initially alerted by the Wire to the upcoming Critic, area watch officers expressed complete surprise at the news. [redacted]

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In support of a White House initiative, the Counterterrorism Center asked FBIS for a priority translation into several languages of a 40-page White Paper on Middle East terrorism to be released in conjunction with a Presidential statement on the subject. The translations were completed to meet a very short deadline. [redacted]

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PRODUCTION GROUP DEVELOPMENTS

ELAAD's [redacted] was asked by OALA for her interpretation of Castro's 24 June televised speech on high-level corruption in Cuba and the recent defection of Brigadier General Del Pino. [redacted] comments were incorporated into a 27 June NID item on the subject; and subsequently, she was asked to collaborate on a DDI Staff Note describing changes in the Cuban media over the past year and a half. [redacted]

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[redacted] of East Europe Branch responded to an OSWR request to translate into Bulgarian and dub the narrative of a 26-minute videotape on the Chernobyl accident prepared by a Department of Energy officer. The officer was to travel to Sofia to meet with Bulgarian nuclear specialists and wanted to present them a copy of the tape. [redacted] received the tape on 15 May and the project was completed by the officer's 23 May departure date. [redacted]

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The Department of Commerce/NTIS has published for public sale the monograph "Japanese High-Tech Information: A Beckoning Market," written by NEAD's Asia Branch Chief [redacted] last year under the DCI Exceptional Analyst Program. [redacted]

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In May, Near East Branch's [redacted] alerted NESA analysts to a series of newspaper articles written by al-Qadhdhafi's cousin urging that the Libyan leader declare himself president. The information was used in a NID item on al-Qadhdhafi's efforts to strengthen his control of the country. [redacted]

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UD's [redacted] received an Exceptional Accomplishment Award in May for providing LDA and other Community offices with specialized information on senior officials and administrative bodies in various Soviet transportation ministries. The material took [redacted] more than 2 years to compile. [redacted]

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An OSWR officer sent a memorandum of appreciation to S&TC's [redacted] for a recent Foreign Press Note and newspaper clippings she provided on Hungarian high temperature superconductivity. In the same memo, [redacted] of ELAAD's East Europe Branch was thanked for finding and sharing with [redacted] an article on the same topic. [redacted]

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George von Baumgarten of JPRS's USSR Section assumed the duties as chief of the new JPRS Science & Technology Section on 8 June. The newly-established section, comprised of six other members drawn from the other JPRS regional sections began operating during the month. [redacted]

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FROM THE FIELD BUREAUS

April proved to be one of the most challenging months in recent Seoul Bureau history with a series of significant events in both Koreas pushing bureau wordage to an all-time high of 766,000. Attention in May was focused on the DPRK, as well as on the mounting political crisis in the ROK, with Kim Il-song's first publicly acknowledged visit to the PRC since 1982. The visit stimulated much interest within the Embassy with Ambassador Lilley and the acting DCM coming to the bureau on 22 May to view Pyongyang TV footage of the event. The event also kept Okinawa Bureau busy with Beijing television providing coverage of the DPRK leader's visit. In June the bureau filed nearly 250,000 words from ROK media alone, most of it related to the political crisis there. Although several demonstrations took place in downtown Seoul and the embassy closed early on two occasions to enable employees to leave the area, bureau operations were unaffected. [redacted]

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Hong Kong Bureau received words of appreciation from Headquarters consumers for the bureau's reporting on the May congressional elections in the Philippines. They were "particularly grateful" for the series of reports that were filed listing the hundreds of congressional candidates. [redacted]

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On 21 May Bangkok Bureau experienced the first bomb scare in its history. The bureau receptionist took a telephone call from an unidentified woman speaking Thai who said a bomb had been placed on the

[redacted] The bureau later found out that a man had called the occupants of the 10th floor about the bomb, but no one could explain why FBIS was also alerted to what turned out to be a bogus bomb threat. [redacted]

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London Bureau, in coordination with Monitoring Operations Division, conducted an experiment on 14 April involving Internet transmission of a consolidated VSL tape and videotapes of Prague television coverage of the Gorbachev visit to Czechoslovakia airtailed from Vienna Bureau. The success of the experiment bodes well for future utilization of the Internet system as it becomes fully operational. [redacted]

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Early May was highlighted for London Bureau by the 38th annual FBIS-BBC coordination meeting. [redacted]

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Abidjan Bureau received high praise in late June from Washington consumers for its monitoring of the N'djamena domestic broadcasts and providing the Community with consistent updates on the Chad/Libya conflict. [redacted]

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Events in South Africa kept Swaziland Bureau busy during the month of April with most of the activity centering around events leading up to the White parliamentary elections scheduled for 6 May. The bureau remained open throughout the night of 6 May to provide complete election results. Subsequently, Wire Service Staff Chief passed on his congratulations and expressions of appreciation from consumers. [redacted]

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Acting on information contained in a Guatemalan press item and in a Havana Radio Rebelde item, Panama Bureau was able to locate and monitor the inaugural broadcast on 22 May of a new clandestine radio station, "La Voz Popular." [redacted]

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Paraguay Bureau's chief monitor [redacted] who retired after 14 years service with FBIS, received a letter of commendation from FBIS Director [redacted] and was presented with the FBIS Career Medal by Operations Group Chief [redacted] during a ceremony at the residence of the bureau chief on 25 May. [redacted]

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The bureau achieved a break-through on 10 June when it sent its first entirely successful BACH-generated message. This event was made possible, after many long and frustrating months of trying to get the program activated, by the cooperation of a visiting Lockheed Electronics Corporation contractor. [redacted]

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On the evening of 14 May Paris AFP in English carried a report on the arrest in London of three suspects in a plot to extort \$15 million from the Cypriot Government under the threat of releasing dioxin poison over the mountains southwest of Nicosia. The poison was to be carried over the city by the wind. Nicosia Bureau kept the embassy informed as reports were monitored over the next few days, and the embassy expressed its appreciation for the bureau's efforts. The suspects were later identified as Cypriot nationals residing temporarily in the United Kingdom.

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ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Assignments June-July 1987

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