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**Foreign Broadcast
Information Service**

NEWSLETTER

Edition 87-1

2 January 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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INTERNET SYSTEM TESTING UNDERWAY

Caversham-Madley-Independent Hill (Quantico) testing of the INTERNET system is underway following activation of the INTERNET transponder by Intelsat on 15 November. Testing is expected to continue through the week of 5 January. The [redacted] Langley microwave link is projected for March. The INTERNET Control Center Staff plans to begin using the Headquarters TVRO in mid-January to take relays from London Bureau via the Intelsat satellite to feed directly into the Langley television grid. [redacted]

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RESTON PROJECT FUNDS APPROVED

FY-87 funding for the Reston project was finally approved in mid-December. The new schedule for our building calls for bid review and contract award by 20 February and interior renovations beginning on the top (third) floor of the building by 26 May. The renovations begin with the third floor due to the critical need for completion of this space as required by the Lockheed contract. Due to earlier funding delays, we now anticipate initial moves into the building will take place this summer. The third floor will be occupied by the Front Office, Ops, the Wire, DRD, Admin Staff, and ESG. AG, MOD, and some ESG components will be on the second floor, with Prod occupying the ground floor. [redacted]

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LIVE TELEVISION OF CUBAN ANNIVERSARY

The Headquarters TVRO antenna provided live coverage on 2 December of Cuban celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of Fidel Castro's return from exile to launch Cuba's revolution. Headquarters consumers viewed both Castro's speech and the military parade held to mark the occasion. [redacted]

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WIRE, FIELD ITEMS IN COMMUNITY DATA BASE

The FBIS Wire Service and all publishable items from the field are now available to subscribers of the Community Information Retrieval Service (CIRS) data base via the COINS and IDHSC-2 networks. The data base initially consists of the most recent 90 days of FBIS reporting, but will be expanded to hold a 14-month accumulation. The Intelligence Information Handling Committee announced the new service on 20 November.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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ASSOCIATION BENEFIT PLAN DISTRIBUTES REBATES

The Government Employees Health Association (GEHA) was to have distributed a refund of excess reserves in the amount of \$94.29 for "self only" members and \$313.78 for "self and family" members by 30 November to employees who were in the Association Benefit Plan (ABP) as of 6 January 1985 and to annuitants who were in the plan as of 1 January 1985. GEHA was to deposit refunds to employees' credit union accounts, with deposits to be reflected in the November 1986 statements. Employees who do not have credit union accounts will receive the refund checks at their offices of record.

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COMMUNITY PRAISE FOR

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political operations. The DDCI urged FBIS to continue to give priority to this coverage and to convey to the BBC Monitoring Service Washington's appreciation for their important contribution in this regard.

[REDACTED]

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SAN SALVADOR SYSTEM REINSTALLED

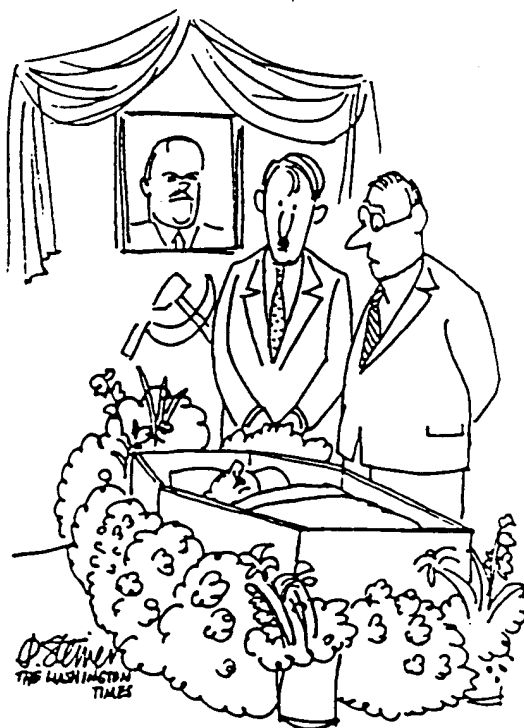
The remote system in San Salvador has been reinstalled in the U.S. Embassy and is once again operational after several months of downtime in the wake of the 10 October earthquake in that city. Panama Bureau is again able to remote-tune and receive clear voice feeds. [redacted]

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NEW NSC DIRECTOR TAPS FBIS

An AG Soviet media analyst fielded a rush request from new NSC Director Frank Carlucci, relayed by the White House Situation Room, for material on Soviet commentary on Iran in recent months. She produced an annotated list of key commentaries, citing original and Daily Report sources, and put this in a package together with copies of two Trends articles on the subject. The package was delivered to the White House.

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"He was well loved. They named a cocktail after him."

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PRODUCTION GROUP DEVELOPMENTS

At the request of DO Indochina Operations, NEAD prepared a background paper describing the structure and personalities of the Office of the President of Laos. The paper is going to overseas stations to assist them in reporting on the situation in Laos, where Souphanouvong has "temporarily resigned" the presidency for health reasons.

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ELAAD provided a language officer for a 2-week TDY to serve as French interpreter in the briefing of the Tunisian and Moroccan security services on the Western Sahara and Libya. The same officer served as interpreter and escort officer during the visit to Washington of the head of the Tunisian National Guard in November.

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UD published the first issue of the new serial USSR Report: National Economy in November. The new serial consolidates under one cover the former Economic Affairs, Agriculture, Construction and Related Industries, Consumer Goods and Domestic Trade, Energy, Human Resources and Transportation. The consolidation is intended to decrease publication delays and eliminate the need for cross-referencing and double-publishing articles on Soviet economics.

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UD supplied the FBIS representative to the first meeting in November of the Foreign Language Committee's Working Group on Education and Training, held at the Department of Education. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposal to create a National Foundation for Foreign Language and International Studies.

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The first and second issues of Economic Previews were made available by UD to Agency consumers on VM in November, and a system for distributing future issues electronically was established. ESG provided the technical expertise and training for the project.

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The NIO for Narcotics has now opened his monthly warning meeting to FBIS officers. This was a result of efforts by the FBIS Focal Point Officer for Narcotics representing the usefulness of FBIS reporting to the overall mission as well as the area knowledge of Prod officers.

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FROM THE FIELD BUREAUS

Okinawa Bureau's famed high-powered Vietnamese monitoring team is now down to one, who is covering only Moscow and Beijing Vietnamese and helping Bangkok Bureau with some processing. Repair work required by Typhoon Vera damage and general deterioration of the bureau's rhombics and beverages was completed by the Air Force maintenance crew in October.

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Some antennas still require major pole replacement scheduled for later in the winter. Chinese senior monitor [redacted] departed for retirement in the United States at the end of November after 16 years at the bureau. At a retirement party given by 45 of his colleagues and friends, [redacted] received a letter from D/FBIS and a Certificate of Merit, and responded by singing a Peking Opera selection he had composed personally in honor of the event. [redacted]

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The "death" of Kim Il-song got Seoul Bureau's attention in November. Bureau editors and the bureau chief spent the better part of 3 days in meetings and responding to telephone queries from senior Embassy and military officers. Each time they convinced everyone there were no media indications of Kim's death, the rumor resurfaced from another direction. When Pyongyang finally reported Kim's presence at the airport to greet a foreign visitor, the bureau dispatched an associate editor to the television monitoring site at the DMZ. He telephoned an FYI to the bureau on television coverage of the arrival ceremony, handcarried the videotapes back to the bureau, and helped prepare two editorial reports on the coverage. The ambassador came to the bureau twice for briefings on developments and phoned several other times. [redacted]

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With the transfer of Beijing television coverage to Okinawa, Hong Kong Bureau has reconfigured its former television monitoring room to serve as the new Philippines section. The change has given the Philippine monitors relief from their formerly cramped working conditions. [redacted]

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Jordan Bureau's October filed wordage was an all-time high of 408,870, reflecting not only two big stories -- Arab World reaction to the UK decision to sever relations with Syria and the withdrawal of the U.S. ambassador -- but increases associated with the bureau's added coverage responsibilities. [redacted]

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Reports of possible terrorist actions against U.S. facilities in Cyprus prompted a security resurvey of Nicosia Bureau in October. A visiting security specialist recommended installation of a steel barrier on the mezzanine-level stairwell to delay access to the bureau premises. The barrier and a new door for the safehaven area were installed by the end of the month. The Cyprus police, in response to a request, increased the number of roving patrols on the streets around the bureau and the Embassy, but were not able to station a uniformed constable at the bureau due to manpower shortages. [redacted]

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Following legislation that effectively killed prospects for a new chancery building in the near future in Israel, a large team from the Department of State visited the mission in November to assess the feasibility of "retrofitting" the chancery for further years of service. Members of the team visited Tel Aviv Bureau in connection with the possibility of moving various components to the Migdalor Building. The bureau chief briefed the team on FBIS's experience with the building and gave them a guided tour. [redacted]

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Abidjan Bureau is making increasing use of its IBM PC's. For some time staff members have been using them for editorial and monitorial work schedules, production reports, nonstaff personnel reports, and property inventory records. Now the bureau has added the staff personnel report and FSN periodic step increase dates. The bureau SOP is on disk and is being updated with Multimate. Experiments are going on with production data on Lotus, engineering graphics, and the bureau cabinet list.

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Swaziland Bureau added evening shifts on Saturday and Sunday beginning in October, thus expanding to 14 shifts per week. The bureau is now open 0445-2030 GMT daily and has one editor, one teletypist, one African-languages monitor, and one Portuguese monitor on duty each weekend shift.

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As part of the State effort to bolster security at embassies, Paraguay Bureau personnel are now required to wear ID badges on duty. Personal and official vehicles must be registered and display a decal to enter the compound.

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After many delays by the Navy and the contractor, the new housing at Key West Bureau was turned over to the bureau chief on 12 December and FBIS families have started to move in, despite a long punch list of corrections still to be made.

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Vienna Bureau local area network (VLAN) usage took another step forward in October when the landline transmission of Paris AFP English was added to the network. Total bureau wordage produced on VLAN in November rose to 350,080, including 126,010 words of English-language press agency traffic that needed no rekeying. The total VLAN figure represented 43 percent of the total wordage for November. The Yugoslav monitorial section was added to the VLAN in November, bringing the number of monitorial units with direct access to the system to three.

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London Bureau editorial began a 90-day experiment in November in which slot editors begin and end their shifts 1 hour earlier than rim editors. Slot duty during the experiment will be in 8-hour increments beginning at midnight local time. Management hopes to improve coordination at shift change time with the altered working hours.

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