



31 August 1988  
FBIS-3218-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- August 1988

## I. GENERAL

A. It isn't often that an ambassador gets upstaged by a beauty queen, but newly arrived U.S. Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue did when he presented his credentials to the King on 23 August. Such an event is usually given broad dissemination throughout the media, but not this time. It seems the occasion just happened to coincide with the arrival of Thailand's own Miss Universe, Phonthip Nakhirankanok, and the media allotted all its space to her fascinating activities that day (She had salted fish for breakfast). Then, apparently still smitten by Miss Universe's charm, when the press finally did run Ambassador O'Donohue's picture it identified him as the new ambassador from Oman. However, he did receive a very warm welcome when he visited the bureau 18 August for a tour and briefing. Well aware of the value of the FBIS product from his Burma days, the ambassador requested that the bureau arrange with the Embassy Political Section to provide him with all FBIS priority and above material on Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Among the first items he received was the 5-take policy statement of the new Thai prime minister.

B. On the local political scene, no sooner was Chatchai Chunhawan sworn in as the new prime minister and his cabinet appointed than controversy arose over his proposal to allow the military to participate in cabinet meetings. Following several days of strong opposition from various parties and the press, Acting Military Supreme Commander Chawalit stated that if the public didn't want the military in the cabinet, it didn't want to be in it, thereby resolving the problem.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

Following a period of relative calm for this area of the world, the bureau filed two "ZZ's" during the month, neither of which generated Critics.

The first took place on 12 August when Burmese military

strongman Sein Lwin suddenly resigned as president and party chairman after just 17 days in power following massive public demonstrations. The two-person Burmese section of [redacted] put in numerous hours of overtime, tuned in the Rangoon casts at home when not on duty, and at one point [redacted] actually translated most of a 4-take speech by newly appointed State Council Vice Chairman U Aye Ko on his personal computer at home in order to meet the processing deadline the bureau had promised.

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In addition to covering Rangoon Domestic, the pair also processed a number of items from Moscow and Beijing in Burmese and BBC in both Burmese and English, and monitored Burma's Maymyo Defense Forces radio in Burmese. The bureau also provided BBC with live phone feeds of the 1330 GMT Rangoon Domestic casts from 11 August on and furnished copies of the daily Burmese file to the Singapore Embassy at its request. Both Headquarters and BBC (twice) expressed their appreciation for a job well done, while the U.S. Ambassador in Rangoon not only forwarded his thanks, but added: "We are pleased you have added BBC broadcasts to your coverage since they enjoy a wide audience here and are having an impact on Burmese thinking."

The second "ZZ" was filed on 17 August when Pakistani President Ziaul Haq was killed in a plane crash along with several of his top military aides and the U.S. ambassador. After being told by the Wire on that date to be alert for any new developments in Pakistani-U.S. relations but that no special watch was required, the bureau went on open-speaker watch as a precautionary measure and soon filed the initial announcement of President Zia's death. The South Asian team then spent a long night filing follow-up reports on the tragedy, radio behavior reports, and a four-take address to the nation by Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, for which the Wire expressed its appreciation. The unit was finally able to go off open watch following the president's funeral on 20 August.

The Vietnamese Unit translated the "Text" of SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's 31 July letter to General John Vessey informing him of the SRV's decision "to temporarily not allow the United States to join Vietnam in the search for and exhumation of the remains of Americans missing in action," citing Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Gaston Sigur's 28 July remarks to Congress as the main reason for the decision.

#### B. Communications

The bureau came within minutes of erroneously switching its communications circuit and those of four pony line recipients from baudot to 300 baud ASCII on 25 August. It seems that the Embassy Commo Unit was informed that our circuit was to be switched on that date but the bureau wasn't, while the bureau received a message that wasn't routed to Commo actually postponing the procedure if one was aware of the contents of the first message. Commo and bureau techs were in the process of switching the circuit when bureau personnel were shown the original message and realized the second pertained to it.

### C. Lateral Services

1. At Ambassador O'Donohue's request, a wrapup of items filed over the past few months on the food situation in Vietnam was prepared for him by Vietnamese Unit Chief Vinh Din Nguyen

2. Requests from AmEmbassy Vientiane and the Drug Enforcement Agency, AmEmbassy Bangkok were fulfilled for Lao Domestic items on a drug trial in that country involving a number of Thai nationals.

3. At the request of the AmEmbassy Brunei, the bureau filed it the Democratic Kampuchean proposal for a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem broadcast by the (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea.

4. At a Headquarters consumer's request, numerous Thai press items were filed on the new prime minister's controversial proposal to have the military attend cabinet meetings and on the upcoming military reshuffle.

5. At AG's request, the bureau is now filing all Hanoi Domestic and Voice of Kampuchea program summaries to it.

### D. Technical

1. Following continuous LAN crashes for reasons unknown, Headquarters advised that a LEC team would be arriving at the bureau in early September to try and resolve the problem.

2. It was found that the hard disk to the AFP Facsimile machine did not function properly despite long-distance trouble-shooting from FED, and was rushed back to Headquarters for repair so that it will be back here in time for the fax's conversion to a digital system.

### E. Cruising

1. Since 2 August, what is believed to be the Indian satellite INSAT-1C has been observed at azimuth 207.61 degrees and elevation 72.19 degrees, putting its position at approximately 94 degrees East.

2. Since 19 August, Malaysian Television Channel 3 (TV3) has been observed on the Indonesian satellite 113E Palapa B2P at RF 3820 Mhz with good reception. Color system is Pal and audio subcarrier is at 6.6 Mhz.

3. After checking for Radio Hong Kong's transmissions in Vietnamese to Vietnam for several days at BBC's request, it was learned that the station never did go on the air due to insurmountable technical difficulties.

4. Again at BBC's request, the bureau's cruisers spent several days checking for Radio Television Hong Kong shortwave transmissions in English, Mandarin, and Vietnamese with negative results.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

STAT [ ] 1. After more than 37 years service, Bureau Engineer [ ] and his wife, Bureau Secretary [ ], retired on 31 August and departed on 1 September for a month's trip through India, Egypt, STAT and Europe before eventually settling down in Arizona. [ ] and STAT [ ] who started his career early by joining the Marines when he was 14 (they never did find out and he spent more than 8 years in the military), were honored at parties hosted by NIA, the Bang Ping crew, the bureau, and the bureau chief. Among the gifts they received were matching gold counterfeit Rolex watches as souvenirs of Bangkok Bureau.

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2. [ ] was appointed FBIS representative to the Embassy CLO.

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B. Building and Grounds

1. The construction of the retaining wall around the righthand side of the operations building began at Bang Ping, with completion scheduled in mid-September.

IV. VISITS

A. To the Bureau

1. New Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue on 18 August for a tour and briefing.

[ ]

Chief, Bangkok Bureau

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30 August 1988

TO: Engineer, Deputy Chief, Chief

FROM: Satellite Cruiser

SUBJECT: Monthly Satellite Cruising Report for August

1. Since 2 August, what is believed to be the Indian satellite INSAT-1C has been located at azimuth 207.61 degrees and elevation 72.19 degrees; putting its position at approximately 94 degrees East. A telemetry signal is located at RF 4031 MHz with other two unknown signals at RF's 4035 and 4038 MHz in lefthand circular polarization. Measurement of carrier signals are:

RF 4031 MHz - S/N Ratio 18 db - Bandwidth 0.5 MHz

RF 4035 MHz - S/N Ratio 12 db - Bandwidth 0.8 MHz

RF 4038 MHz - S/N Ratio 24 db - Bandwidth 0.5 MHz

2. Since 19 August, Malaysian Television Channel 3 (TV3) has been observed on the Indonesian satellite 113E Palapa B2P at RF 3820 MHz with good reception. Color System is PAL and audio subcarrier is at 6.6 MHz. The video carrier has a signal to noise ratio of 34 db and a bandwidth of approximately 20 MHz with righthand circular polarization. This is the third Malaysian television intercepted via Bangkok ROSET in addition to the RTM #1 on 113E at RF 3900 MHz and the RTM #2 on 66E at RF 3828 MHz (LHCP).

3. Since 9 August, Swiss Radio International in English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Arabic, Portuguese, Romansch, and Esperanto have been observed on the 60E Intelsat at RF 3962 MHz, channel frequencies 160 KHz and 164 KHz, with good reception. These transmissions are also broadcasting in parallel with various HF frequencies with poor/fair reception at Bangkok Bureau.

4. From approximately 2300 to 2315 gmt on 17 August, an unscheduled television feed in Urdu from Pakistan was observed in progress on the 60E Intelsat at RF 4165 MHz with fair reception. The color system used was NTSC and audio subcarrier located at 6.6 MHz. The video feed consisted of clips of a news reader reading a brief report on Pakistan President Zia's death, cabinet meeting and prayers and Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan reading his address. Feed ended at 2305 gmt and was repeated until 2315 gmt when video carrier dropped off the air. At the beginning of the feed, a screen notice "Stand by for news feed from Pakistan Television Karachi studios" was observed.

5. Since 2 August, Radio France Internationale in French/English on the 63E Intelsat at RF 3980 MHz has been observed to relocate its channel frequency from 96 KHz (inverted) to 400 KHz (upright). Reception is good.

6. Since 23 August, cruising checks of Soviet satellites on the 53E, 90E and 140E have revealed following changes:

Audio for Moscow TV 2nd program Double-IV on 53E at RF 3875 MHz (formerly carrying sound-in-sync audio) has been located at subcarrier 7.5 MHz. Reception is good.

Moscow radio 1st program Orbita-1 on 140E at RF 3875 MHz has relocated its audio subcarrier from 7.5 MHz to 7.0 MHz.

Audios for Moscow TV 2nd program Double-I on 90E at RF 3915 MHz and on 140E at RF 3875 MHz (formerly carrying sound-in-sync audio) have been located at subcarriers 7.5 MHz with good reception.

7. Since 29 August, cruising checks on DPA radioteletype transmissions in English on 60E Intelsat at RF 3877 MHz have revealed followed changes:

DPA transmission at channel frequency 232 Khz Upright has been moved to 472 Khz Upright with its center frequency at 1735 Hz normal. The VFT stack at channel frequency 232 Khz is no longer observed.

DPA transmission at channel frequency 576 Khz Upright, center frequency 1185 Hz normal, is no longer observed (VFT stack no longer observed).

DPA transmission at channel frequency 100 Khz Inverted, center frequency 1625 Hz normal (formerly reported as channel frequency 096 Khz Upright, center frequency 2375 Hz normal) remains no change.

The DPA transmission at channel frequency 472 Khz is in parallel with channel frequency 100 Khz with a 10-minutes time lag.

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30 August 1988

TO: Deputy Chief, Chief

FROM: HF Cruiser

SUBJECT: Monthly HF Cruising Report for August 88

1. Cruising project for Aug 88:-

Priority :- VODK/VONADK/VOK/VOMD/VOPB/VRR  
 Vientiane domestic  
 Routine:- Kuala Lumpur dom/intl  
 Singapore

STAT Checked France intl svc in frence for [ ] to compared with  
 63E Roset heard in parallel on 15200/11995/11670khz(0020gmt/1 Aug)

3. Rangoon dom freq shift up from 9730 to 9735khz with fair reception(0330gmt/2Aug).
4. Checked on HF bands between 4 and 21 mhz for Mr.Nives to compared with 80E Roset(RF3775 IF84.30mhz) in vietnamese, no HF freqs heard in parallel with 80E Roset(0509gmt/2 Aug).
5. Rangoon dom freq shift down to normal on 9730khz(fair).
6. Observed on Moscow intl svc due to minor frequencies adjustments (1000=1715gmt/3. Aug).
7. Checked Rangoon dom for Khun sally heard with very poor due to strong interference from adjacent stations on 5985 khz(1147gmt/5 Aug).
8. Hanoi domestic in vietnamese heard on intl freq of 12035(fair) in parallel with 10060,6450and 4895khz(0400gmt/9 Aug).
9. Hong kong radio was intercepted on 9685khz in english with poor/fair reception at0933gmt/10 Aug.
10. Checked on Hong kong radio on 7295khz but unheard at 0003-0200gmt/15 Aug.
11. Jakarta intl svc heard in additional language of arabic on 15150, 11790khz(0300-0400gmt/15 Aug).
12. Received the cruising message from BBC(TB1808160088) request for cruising check on Jakarta intl svc new transmission adjustments.
13. Request for cruising check on Hong kong radio(TB2208160688) at 0700-1600gmt on 9685 khz.
14. Checked Hong kong radio on 9685khz but unheard(0700-0900gmt/23Aug)
15. Jakarta intl svc the announced frequencies of 9675,7225,7125khz all unheard(last check 26 Aug).
16. Hong kong radio unheard on 9685khz at0900-1600gmt/24 Aug.
17. Sending cruising messages of all cruising project of Aug include Jakarta intl new schedule to bureau(0045gmt/29 Aug).

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