

0111

### ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET



SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

February 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED	FORWARDED
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1. C/Ops	1 Apr		B <sup>DO</sup> B
2.			
3. A C/E&PS			W
4. <del>DD/FBIS</del>			
5. D/FBIS			R
6.			
7. PO/RA	4/4		Orn
8. SA/CD	4/5		Ent
9. C/E+PS	4/12		J
10. C/AS	12 Apr		Co 7
11. C/B&F/AS			Be
12.			
13.			
14. C/AG	12/4		m <sup>ja</sup>
15. Exec. Reg.			

02 March 1988  
FBIS-3208+88

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

## I. GENERAL

1. The Thai-Lao border dispute, which many earlier feared would escalate into a major confrontation, appeared to be well on the way to a peaceful settlement by month's end after the Thai military dropped its demand for Lao troops to vacate Thai territory before it would enter into negotiations. The sudden turnabout was said to be at least partially attributable to the two recent visits to Laos by former Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan, signer of the 1979 Thai-Lao joint communique and associate of Lao Premier Kaysone Phomvihane. In any event, Kaysone's cease-fire proposal and the resulting peace talks followed shortly thereafter, catching many by surprise. This led to a number of calls from the Embassy Political Section, USIS, and VOA seeking copies of various items that had already been sent to them via the ponyline, leading the bureau to wonder just what had happened to their internal distribution systems. On the lighter side, a foreign correspondent eager to get his story out requested the name of the Lao interior minister after Lao Embassy personnel had told him that they did not know it. The bureau obliged.

Also on the Thai scene, the bureau must have certainly bored Daily Report editors but kept a number of embassy consumers happy by extensively reporting on the case of the reappearing lintel, a stone carving that once went over the entrance to a centuries-old Khmer Temple but now makes it's home in the Chicago Institute of Art. According to the latest report the institute may be willing to return the carving provided it receives a reproduction.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. A program has been introduced to periodically review the monitors' raw copy and provide them with continuing feedback with the intention of further improving the bureau product. This has already begun to pay off on such easily correctable matters

as inserting articles in sentences, capitalizing where necessary, and handling numbers. Senior Editor [ ] has been assigned the duty of working directly with the monitors in resolving more complex translation problems.

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2. To reduce the editors' workload, consolidate media coverage in the units concerned, and make their selection process more efficient, the press agency printers have been relocated to the hallways right outside the booths of the various units. For instance, the South Asian unit now has direct responsibility for ISI and Lanka Puvath, while the Indonesia, Burma, and Malaysia Unit has the OANA/Bernamea circuit. The editors can still call the various circuits up on their PC screens for backstop purposes if necessary.

3. The Thai section sampled the Vientiane Thai casts for a week for additional reports on the conflict during the height of the border fighting, but their efforts were for naught as they simply repeated reportage carried earlier on the regular Lao newscasts

4. A 200-minute 33-take speech by Lao Premier Kaysone Phomvihon to the Supreme People's Council, coupled with reportage and commentary on the Thai border war, kept the Lao section exceptionally busy. When the embassy in Vientiane was informed of the length of Kaysone's speech, it urgently requested that it be pouched to spare its small commo unit. The bureau obliged.

#### B. Lateral Services

1. A military consumer's request for Delhi TV's coverage of the Soviet nuclear-powered submarine leased to India was passed to headquarters since the bureau had already forwarded the videotape.

2. The bureau received a number of requests for items, the great majority of which had already been filed to them, from such embassy consumers as the DCM, the political section, USIS, VOA, Refugee and Migration Affairs, the Orderly Departure Program (ODP), and the Narcotics Assistance Unit (NAU). One ODP request was for a September 1985 JPRS translation of the SRV penal code, which the Vietnamese unit was able to provide. One of ODP's calls was to ask what "BK" stood for on the bureau's items.

3. Two embassy consumer requests were passed to headquarters, one for a JPRS Vietnam Fact Book for use in-house, and the other for a subscription to the East Asia Daily Report for forwarding via the Political Section to the PRC Embassy.

#### C. Technical

1. Cleaning and painting of the HF antennas at Bang Ping started this reporting period. The job is expected to take approximately 6 months.

2. Installation of the new bureau telephone system was completed this month. The system replaces the old one, which consisted of three subsystems.

3. In an effort to improve the efficiency of bureau operations, press services printers have been moved from their previous locations in the editorial area to the appropriate monitoring units.

4. The ROSET analysis antenna continues to have problems. In addition to the elevation malfunction which occurred in November 87 (parts are on order), the braking system in the azimuth function of the antenna has now developed a problem. All indicators seem to point to a microswitch in the brake mechanism. Efforts to repair it are continuing and hopefully the problem will be resolved in the next few days.

#### D. Cruising

1. In coordination with the Okinawa staff cruiser, a program has been introduced to further improve the bureau's HF cruising methods and procedures. The daily cruising logs are mailed weekly to the staff cruiser, who provides feedback on ways to improve the log and offers suggestions on specific areas to concentrate on. A significant improvement has been noticed already.

2. The Palapa 77E satellite, which had been in continuous operation since 1977, was apparently removed from orbit on 30 January as promised by Indonesia's Antara news agency, as no trace of it has been observed since that date. With 10 years in orbit, this first-generation satellite exceeded its life expectancy by more than 3 years.

3. The (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma, which had not been heard since 10 February, returned to the air on its regular frequency of 5110 khz on 26 February. The station gave no explanation for its 16-day downtime.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

1. Editor [redacted] was promoted to GS-11/5 effective 14 February. STAT

2. Lao/Thai monitor [redacted] received a QSI effective 28 February. STAT

3. [redacted], the new Cambodian monitor, entered on duty 14 February. STAT

B. Building and Grounds

1. The second portion of the retaining wall at Bang Ping has been completed. The retaining wall not only improves the physical appearance of the receiver site, but will also make more land available for future expansion, such as the installation of small (2-7 meters) ROSET antennas which can be dedicated to a particular satellite, thereby freeing the larger antennas for other operational needs.

C. Visits

1. Mr. Henry Schneider of FBO/State Dept. visited the bureau on 17 February to discuss bureau requirements for the new chancery building.

2. The auditors visited the bureau 29 February-01 March.



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Chief, Bangkok Bureau

## BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1988

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	757,130
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	212,980
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,580

	<u>BROAD-CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI-CATION</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	20,637 min.	22,035 min.	336.46 issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ROSET SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

INDIA

Delhi General Overseas Service in English	2,720		
Delhi Domestic Service in English	41,760		
Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English	2,770		

INDONESIA

Jakarta TVRI Television Network in Indonesian	120		
Jakarta ANTARA in English		10,500	

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay	1,980		
Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English		18,610	

PHILIPPINES

Quezon City RPN 9 Television in English	2,110		
Manila PNA in English		7,640	

SRI LANKA

Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English		13,430	
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	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
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IV. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
(publishable words per month)

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	14,590		
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English			0
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English			0
Sydney THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English			0

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Overseas Service in English	980		
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	6,450		
Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	230		
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English			1,680
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali			1,540

BRUNEI

Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English			0
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BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	9,970		
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			2,080
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese			0
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese			0
Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese			0

CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	18,470		
Phnom Penh SPK in English		9,900	
Phnom Penh SPK in French to KPL Vientiane			0
Phnom Penh SPK in French		6,950	

	<u>BROAD-</u> <u>CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS</u> <u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u> <u>CATION</u>
<u>CHINA</u>			
Beijing International Service in Bengali	0		
Beijing International Service in Burmese	0		
Beijing International Service in Indonesian	0		
Beijing International Service in Lao	0		
Beijing International Service in Thai	0		
Beijing International Service in Vietnamese	260		
Beijing in Cambodian to Cambodia	3,040		
Beijing in Hindi to India	0		
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	0		
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	0		
<u>CLANDESTINE</u>			
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	8,260		
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	3,620		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian	9,990		
(Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	2,380		
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese	2,550		
<u>HONG KONG</u>			
Hong Kong AFP in English		61,950	
<u>INDIA</u>			
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	2,720		
Delhi Domestic Service in English	41,760		
Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English	2,770		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		1,000	
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			0
Delhi PATRIOT in English			3,600
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in			



	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>INDIA (continued)</u>			
Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil			0
Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi			0
Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali			760
<u>INDONESIA</u>			
Jakarta International Service in English	500		
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	7,130		
Jakarta TVRI Television Network in Indonesian	120		
Jakarta ANTARA in English		10,500	
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English			1,230
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			1,620
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian			0
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			820
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian			50
Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian			1,020
Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian			970
<u>LAOS</u>			
Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao	80,270		
Vientiane KPL in English		33,940	
Vientiane KPL in English to SPK Phnom Penh			0
Vientiane KPL in French to SPK Phnom Penh			0
Vientiane SPK in French to SPK Phnom Penh			0
Vientiane PASASON in Lao			0
Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao			0
<u>MALAYSIA</u>			
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	5,360		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English			0

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>MALAYSIA</u> (continued)			
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	300		
Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay	1,980		
Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English		18,610	
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English			0
Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English			0
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay			0
Kuala Lumpur BERITA MINGGU in Malay			0
Kuala Lumpur MINGGUAN MALAYSIA in Malay			0
Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay			0
<u>NEPAL</u>			
Kathmandu External Service in English	0		
Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English			260
<u>NEW ZEALAND</u>			
Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English			810
Wellington THE EVENING POST in English			0
<u>PAKISTAN</u>			
Islamabad Oversea Service in English	1,870		
Islamabad Domestic Service in English	5,440		
Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu	14,820		
Islamabad Oversea Service in Urdu	0		
Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English			5,940
Karachi DAWN in English			2,510
Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu			820
Lahore JANG in Urdu			250
Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu			790

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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PHILIPPINES

Quezon City RPN 9 Television in English	2,110		
Manila PNA in English		7,640	

SINGAPORE

Singapore Domestic Service in English	1,900		
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English			0
Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English			0

SRI LANKA

Colombo International Service in English	1,840		
Colombo Domestic Service in English	0		
Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil	0		
Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English		13,430	
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English			190
Colombo SUN in English			0
Colombo WEEKEND in English			2,100
Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil			0

THAILAND

Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	960		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	0		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	5,820		
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	1,240		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	13,890		
Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai	1,980		
Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai	3,080		
Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 3 in Thai	310		
Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai	1,000		
Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 in Thai	440		

<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

THAILAND (continued)

Bangkok TNA in English	890	
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English		59,000
Bangkok THE NATION in English		47,060
Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai		0
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai		0
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai		3,450
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai		0
Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai		2,730
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai		4,930
Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai		0
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai		0
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai		2,550
Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese		520
Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese		0
Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese		280

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow International Service in Tamil	0	
Moscow International Service in Vietnamese	1,970	
Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh	0	
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	0	
Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia	610	
Moscow in Hindi to India	0	
Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	2,280	
Moscow in Lao to Laos	1,160	
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	0	
Moscow in Urdu to India	0	
Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan	0	

<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (continued)Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in  
Indonesian

0

UNITED KINGDOMLondon BBC World Service in  
English

7,590

VIETNAMHanoi International Service in  
English

3,850

Hanoi International Service in  
Cambodian

0

Hanoi International Service in  
Thai

360

Hanoi Domestic Service in  
Vietnamese

50,590

Hanoi VNA in  
English

60,190

Hanoi NHAN DAN in  
Vietnamese

22,880

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in  
Vietnamese

9,490

Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in  
Vietnamese

0

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in  
Vietnamese

0

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in  
Vietnamese

0