



ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau

FROM:	EXTENSION	NO.
Chief, Operations Group		
		DATE
		May 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		

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		
1. AC/Ops	17 JUN 1988		[Signature]	
2.				
3. C/E&PS		4/21	[Signature]	
4. DD/FBIS		6/22	B	
5. D/FBIS			R	
6.				
7. PO/RA		6/28	[Signature]	
8. SA/CD	ES BF CD [Signature]	6/29	[Signature]	
9.				
10. C/AS			KS	7
11. C/B&F/AS			[Signature]	
12.				
13.				
14. C/AG		5/7	[Signature]	AD
15. Exec. Reg.				



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



3 June 1988
FBIS-5613-88

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

I. GENERAL

May, the traditional month for student activity in the Republic, has seen an increase in demonstrations with an anti-U.S. overtone. On 19 May, following a demonstration held to honor a student suicide victim, a group of demonstrators attacked the USIS building in Seoul, only hours after several Bureau staff members had attended an emergency medical training class in the building. On the following day a student "suicide" squad attacked the Embassy itself with home made "noise bombs." Five students succeeded in scaling the wall, holding up a placard calling for the ouster of "U.S. imperialists" after they had thrown several of the explosive devices. Other than one guard and one student injured in the scuffle that ensued, no injuries were reported. Several Bureau staffers, including the chief and the deputy chief, passed through the area where the incident took place, missing the event by a matter of minutes. Again on 23 May another U.S. facility was attacked, this time the USIS building in Kwangju. A Korean security guard was reported to have been injured in the attack, but there were no reports of other injuries or damage.

Despite the high-profile student demonstrations, U.S. personnel continue to move freely about Seoul and surrounding areas where little evidence of increased hostility to the U.S. presence can be seen. Except to comment on the increasing anti-U.S. sentiment among some students, the local media have paid scant attention to the anti-U.S. activities themselves. Local papers do indicate that student activity will continue at least until 10 June, the date set for proposed North-South student talks at Panmunjom, which the government opposes.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. So far the student demonstrations have not affected Bureau operations in any way. In a review of the attack on the Embassy, emergency procedures and message handling were discussed, with an emphasis on the need to ensure personal safety.

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2. The new political situation in the Republic, with the opposition gaining numerical superiority in the National Assembly, has caused an increased need for coverage of the vernacular media, a need which has been partially met by the hiring of a contract translator. With the help of the contractor, the production from South Korean vernacular newspapers during the month tripled April's output.

3. The Bureau has added the new self-proclaimed independent Seoul daily newspaper HANGYORE SINMUN to coverage. Sample copies of HANGYORE SINMUN and the Catholic weekly PYONGHWA SINMUN have been mailed to NEAD. The Korean unit is on the lookout for worthwhile publications to add to coverage in the flood of new publications coming out in South Korea.

4. The clandestine Voice of National Salvation (VNS) English language cast, which had been free from signal interference, has been jammed since the beginning of the month. Monitors are continuing their efforts to cover VNS despite the interference.

B. Communications

The Bureau technicians have resolved the initial problems experienced with the Multicomm software provided by Okinawa Bureau, and the Communications unit is regularly capturing the KCNA press casts on computer diskette. The old SATRAP equipment is now only used on the occasions when no PC is available.

C. Lateral Services

1. The Bureau relayed an AG media analysis of North Korean threats on the Olympics, done at the request of the State Department's Korea desk, to Seoul Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Brooks.

2. The Bureau conveyed a request from a local military consumer for a copy of a July 1987 speech by North Korea's Kim Chong-il to Headquarters. NEAD was able to furnish a copy of the speech, which was passed on to the consumer.

3. In a message modifying filing requirements, which did not affect Bureau procedures, the U.S. Consulate in Shenyang expressed its appreciation for "FBIS Seoul's support."

D. Technical

1. The Bureau sent two defective Watkins-Johnson Model WJ-8718A receivers (s/n 3768, 3777) to Headquarters.

2. The Bureau technicians took measurements for new receiver racks to be installed at the remote antenna site at Pyongtaek.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. The process of interviewing and testing monitorial candidates to fill positions in the Korean unit is now underway. Several good prospects have been identified so far.

2. With the agreement and cooperation of NEAD, the Bureau has hired a local contract translator to process items from the vernacular press.

3. Associate editor was promoted to GS-8.

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IV. VISITS

Julie Precious, Department of Defense Korean political affairs analyst, visited the Bureau on 31 May for familiarization and a discussion of coverage.

STAT

Chief, Seoul Bureau

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau