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CITE FRIS/AMMAN 10193

Jm
H - Closure →

TO: FRIS.

RYBAT

SUBJECT: COVERAGE SHIFT CONTINGENCY

REF: FRIS 21610

[Redacted]

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1. JORDAN BUREAU WOULD NEED THREE OR FOUR ADDITIONAL MONITORS ABOVE CURRENT T/O OF 11 (WE ARE CURRENTLY ONE UNDER T/O) TO ASSUME PERMANENT COVERAGE OF LISTED CASTS/PAPERS. WE CAN'T PICK UP ALL CASTS LISTED, E.G., JEDDAH D/S, MANAMA D/S, BAGHDAD D/S 1130-1150, SALALAH D/S, ADEN VOP, OR PROBABLY TEHRAN ARABIC DUE TO IRAQI JAMMING, BUT JUDGING FROM GULF BUREAU'S MONTHLY PRODUCTION REPORT, THAT WHICH WE CAN PICK UP WOULD YIELD SOMETHING ON THE ORDER OF 100-125K EXTRA PROCESSED WORDS PER MONTH, OR ROUGHLY A 50 PERCENT INCREASE OVER OUR PRESENT FILING LEVEL. THE "LISTENING" TIME INCREASE PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE OF THAT MAGNITUDE, HOWEVER, SINCE MOST OF THE EXTRA WORDAGE LOOKS LIKE IT WOULD COME FROM PRESS AGENCY AND NEWSPAPER COVERAGE. SO, FACTORING IN PRESENT UNUSED CAPACITY, BELIEVE WE COULD HANDLE IT WITH LESS THAN A 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN MONITOR STAFFING.

2. WE HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT A SATELLITE/LANDLINE SUBSCRIPTION FOR SPA, BUT HAVE RECEIVED NO REPLY YET. REALIZE IT'S NOT NEARLY AS EFFICIENT, BUT COULD LD TAKE IT BACK IF WE CAN'T GET IT HERE? WE HAVE TALKED TO TCC AND THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM GETTING A LANDLINE FEED, IF SPA IS AVAILABLE VIA SATELLITE. IN EITHER CASE OUR MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS WOULDN'T BE AFFECTED THAT MUCH.

3. DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME TO GAUGE CHANCES FOR EMBASSY/GOJ APPROVAL FOR STAFF INCREASES. MISSION IS UNDER CONSTANT PRESSURE FROM STATE TO REDUCE STAFFING FOR SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, SO AM NOT AT ALL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR CHANCES OF GETTING OUR STAFF T/O INCREASED. DON'T BELIEVE EXTRA COVERAGE LOAD WOULD WARRANT IT IN ANY CASE. APPROVAL FOR INCREASES IN MONITORIAL STAFFING PROBABLY

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PAGE 2 FBIS/AMMAN 10193 C O N F I D E N T I A L
WOULDN'T BE QUITE SO HARD TO COME BY, BUT AGAIN I HESITATE TO
PREDICT ABSOLUTELY SMOOTH SAILING MAINLY DUE TO GRAMM-RUDMAN CUT-
BACKS IN ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES. USAID MISSION HERE IS
PHASING OUT OF FAAS, WHICH IS GOING TO INCREASE THE BURDEN ON THE
OTHER AGENCIES. STILL, GIVEN EMBASSY'S PROFFESSED RELIANCE ON OUR
PRODUCT, BELIEVE WE WOULD HAVE A FAIR CHANCE AT GETTING THE NEC-
CESSARY MONITORIAL STAFF INCREASE. GOJ APPROVAL OF ANY INCREASE
IS EVEN HARDER TO GAUGE, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE RECENT POL-
ITICAL ATMOSPHERE. I WOULD IMAGINE TCN'S WOULD BE VERY HARD TO
SELL, BUT PERHAPS THERE WOULD BE A CERTAIN SYMPATHY FOR PROVIDING
JOBS FOR LOCALS. AGAIN, AS A DIRECT RECIPIENT OF OUR PRODUCT
VIA THE PONY LINE, AND WITH A CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN GULF
AFFAIRS, GOJ MIGHT BE AMENABLE TO MONITORIAL STAFF INCREASE.

4. WHEREAS I DON'T THINK AN INCREASE IN STAFF T/O WILL BE
NECESSARY, BELIEVE WE MIGHT WANT TO LOOK SERIOUSLY AT CREATING
ANOTHER ASSOCIATE EDITOR (OR SOME HYBRID FORM OF ASSOCIATE EDITOR
/MONITOR SIMILAR TO WHAT GULF BUREAU WAS CONTEMPLATING) POSITION.
WE'RE RUNNING PRETTY CLOSE TO THE EDGE AS FAR AS SHIFT COVERAGE
GOES, AND ANOTHER ASSOCIATE WOULD GIVE US SOME NEEDED FLEXIBILITY.
DEPENDING ON THE ULTIMATE VOLUME INCREASE IN OUR FILE, WE MIGHT
ALSO HAVE TO LOOK AT ADDING ANOTHER TELEOP. MUCH OF THEIR CUR-
RENT WORKLOAD IS NON-FBIS ORIGINATED, E.G., TELEXES AND UNCLAS
MILITARY TRAFFIC, SO OUR MONTHLY WORDAGE FILE IS A BIT MISLEAD-
ING AS REGARDS MANHOURS/WORDAGE.

5. WE COULD GET BY SHORT TERM WITH THE EQUIPMENT ON HAND,
ASSUMING THAT MORE WOULD ULTIMATELY BE TRANSFERRED. THAT WOULD
LEAVE US WITH VIRTUALLY NO SPARES THOUGH.

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