

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

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*Of Relocation ->*

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1205507 FEB 86 STAFF

CITE FBIS/GULF 10030 SECTION 01 OF 03

TO: FBIS.

RYBAT

SUBJECT: CLOSURE EXERCISE

REF: FBIS 21205



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1. ALTHOUGH SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF REF WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED, DON AND I HAD BEEN THINKING MORE IN TERMS OF A 20-25 PERCENT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF MONITORS (3-5 POSITIONS), AND I HOPE SUCH A REDUCTION WILL REMAIN UNDER CONSIDERATION AS AN OPTION TO CLOSURE. A VARIETY OF COVERAGE OPTIONS EXIST IF REDUCTION IS CHOSEN. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE WOULD ENTAIL SHIFTING THE EARLY MORNING TEHRAN PERSIAN COVERAGE TO LD, NC, OR TA, DROPPING OR SHIFTING OUR ONE KAPUL ENGLISH CAST, AND SHIFTING OR REDUCING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PERSIAN AND PAKISTANI PRESS, THUS ELIMINATING GF'S PERSIAN DAYSHIFT (1-2 POSITIONS); DROPPING RUSSIAN AND ARMENIAN COVERAGE (2 POSITIONS); AND ELIMINATING THE ARABIC POSITION THAT WE PLAN TO MOVE FROM THE PERSIAN SECTION IN JULY (BUT ONLY IF THE FULL 5 POSITIONS HAD TO BE ELIMINATED). THIS ALSO ASSUMES THAT BBC WILL PICK UP TEHRAN TV WHEN IT GOES SATEL-LITE, AS EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SOME REDUCTION OF OUR LESS PRODUCTIVE PERSIAN REGIONAL AND CLADESTINE RADIOS AND ARABIC NEWSPAPER COVERAGE WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY. ONE ARABIC/RUSSIAN MONITOR WOULD BE SHIFTED TO ARABIC ONLY, AND THE CENTRAL ASIAN AND PERSIAN SECTIONS WOULD BE COMBINED UNDER A SINGLE SUPERVISOR. THE CHIEF MONITOR WOULD HAVE TO DEVOTE MUCH MORE OF HIS TIME TO REGULAR ARABIC MONITORING DUTIES, WITH A CORRESPONDING CUTBACK IN TIME DEVOTED TO SUPERVISION, QUALITY CONTROL, AND CRUISING. THE ESTIMATED REDUCTION IN COST WOULD AMOUNT TO [REDACTED] DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF TCN POSITIONS CUT. EACH TCN COSTS AN AVERAGE OF [REDACTED] IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

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2. GRANTED, THESE SAVING DO NOT APPROACH THE SCALE OF THOSE

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 MENTIONED IN GRAF 2 OF REF, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD ALSO KEEP THE CONTINGENCY COVERAGE FACTOR IN MIND, AND MY PROPOSAL RETAINS A RELATIVELY STRONG ARABIC TEAM FOR THAT REASON. MY EXPERIENCE AT JORDAN BUREAU ALWAYS LEFT ME WITH THE UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING THAT, IN SUCH A VOLATILE AREA, WE MIGHT FACE A VERY SUDDEN BUREAU CLOSURE THAT WOULD PROVE LONG-TERM, AT LEAST, IF NOT PERMANENT. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT FEW OF JN'S LOCALLY HIRED ARAB MONITORS WOULD CHOOSE TO LEAVE IN A CRISIS--NOT WITHOUT A BIBLICAL-STYLE EXODUS OF THEIR EXTENDED FAMILIES-- OR COULD GET OUT IF THEY CHOSE TO GO. ONCE GF IS CLOSED, A CONTINGENCY SITUATION AT JN WOULD LEAVE FBIS LIMPING ALONG ON THE ARABIC TEAMS AT NC AND BBC. IF THE DECISION IS TO CLOSE GF, I BELIEVE TRANSFERS OF COVERAGE AND PERSONNEL TO JN SHOULD THEREFORE BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM, AND THE BUILDUP SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED AT NC TO THE EXTENT RECEPTION CONDITIONS PERMIT.

3. AN ISLAMABAD-TYPE RELAY OPERATION FROM BAHRAIN IS ALMOST CERTAINLY POSSIBLE, BUT IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE A DUBIOUS PROPOSITION FROM THE COST/BENEFIT POINT OF VIEW. FIRST, I DO NOT THINK FBIS CAN BASE ITS PLANNING FOR A RELAY OPERATION ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WILL BE ACCOMMODATED FREE OR AT MINIMUM COST IN AN EXISTING USG FACILITY. WHILE WE MIGHT NEGOTIATE A ROOM OR TWO IN THE NEW EMPASSY ONCE IT IS BUILT, THERE SIMPLY ISN'T ANY SPACE IN THE PRESENT BUILDING FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL THEN. I AM NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ACQUIRING SPACE IN AN EXISTING BUILDING ON THE ASU COMPOUND, EITHER, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY I HAVE NOT CONSULTED WITH ANYONE IN THE NAVY ABOUT THE MATTER. WE WOULD CERTAINLY WANT TO TOUCH THAT BASE IF THE DECISION IS TO ESTABLISH A RELAY SITE. WE MIGHT BE GIVEN ENOUGH LAND TO PUT UP A VERY SMALL BUILDING OF OUR OWN, WHICH WOULD HAVE SECURITY ADVANTAGES OVER OUR PRESENT LOCATION. GSO HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO MY INQUIRY--RELATED TO MY EARLIER RELOCATION PROPOSAL--ABOUT THE TYPICAL COST PER SQUARE FOOT OF OFFICE SPACE IN ONE OF THE DOWNTOWN HIGH-RISE BLOCKS. WE COULD EASILY FIND A SMALL APARTMENT IN THE \$16-20K/YEAR RANGE IF WE CHOOSE THAT OPTION AGAIN. I HAVE NOT CHECKED ON DEDICATED CIRCUIT COSTS, BUT CAN DO SO WHEN/IF YOU WISH.

4. WITHOUT ALL THE CRUISING RECORDS AT HAND, I CAN ONLY GIVE SOME GENERAL THOUGHTS ON THE COVERAGE BENEFITS OF A BAHRAIN RELAY OPERATION. I AM SURE MOD IS DOING A DETAILED STUDY OF THE MATTER.

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PAGE 3 FPIS/GULF 10030 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
 MOST OF GE'S MAIN COVERAGE SOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AT OTHER FPIS LOCATIONS. RIYADH RADIO AND SPA, TEHRAN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICES, WAKH/WAM/QNA/QNA, SANAA DOMESTIC AND PLO RADIOS, AND SOME OF THE PERSIAN CLANDESTINES CAN ALL BE MONITORED BY CONVENTIONAL MEANS AT OTHER FPIS SITES. SOME OF GE'S LIVE COVERAGE OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS MAY BE LOST, BUT SOME OF THAT MATERIAL ALREADY RELIES ON TAPES SENT FROM ISLAMABAD AND SOME IS DUPLICATED OVER THE SA/LD LINE. PRESUMABLY TELEVISION VIDEO WOULD NOT BE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF A SMALL RELAY OPERATION, AND RIYADH AND MUSCAT TV ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE ON SATELLITE, WHILE TEHRAN TV SOON WILL BE, WE EXPECT. AS FOR ADEN COVERAGE, IT COULD REVERT TO FAH, POSSIBLY SPLIT WITH JN. THAT LEAVES ONLY A COLLECTION OF LESSER SOURCES THAT, IN SUM, COULD PROVIDE A JUSTIFICATION FOR A RELAY OPERATION, BUT THE JUSTIFICATION DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A STRONG ONE. MANAMA, DOHA, ABU DHABI, AND MUSCAT RADIOS ARE OCCASIONALLY USEFUL SUPPLEMENTS TO WAKH/WAM/QNA/QNA, BUT WOULD BE LITTLE MISSED. THE SAME APPLIES TO JEDDAH, WHICH SOMETIMES CARRIES ITEMS FIRST BUT RARELY EXCLUSIVE OF OTHER SAUDI SOURCES. IRANIAN REGIONALS ARE NOT PRODUCTIVE COVERAGE UNDER WHAT PASSES FOR NORMAL CONDITIONS IN THAT COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH OUTBREAK OF A CIVIL WAR IS A POSSIBILITY AND COULD MAKE MONITORING OF THE REGIONALS BOTH INTERESTING AND HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE, WE MIGHT WAIT A LONG TIME FOR SOMETHING THAT NEVER HAPPENS. EVOLUTION RATHER THAN ANOTHER REVOLUTION, AND/OR A SUCCESSFUL COUP D'ETAT AT THE CENTER WITHOUT LOSING CONTROL OF THE PROVINCES SEEM EQUALLY LIKELY SCENARIOS FOR CHANGE IN IRAN. THE SA CRUISING SURVEY SHOULD GIVE A GOOD HANDLE ON WHICH IRANIAN REGIONALS CAN BE PICKED UP FROM ISLAMABAD.

5. AN ISLAMABAD-TYPE OPERATION HERE SHOULD NOT POSE A PROBLEM FOR THE GOB INFORMATION MINISTER. IT WILL ELIMINATE SPONSORSHIP OF TCN'S AND REDUCE THE FPIS PROFILE IN THE COUNTRY ALMOST TO THE VANISHING POINT. IT WILL, OF COURSE, END THE DIRECT DISTRIBUTION OF FPIS COPY, BUT I DOUBT THAT LOSS WILL BE MUCH LAMENTED. WHATEVER WE DECIDE TO DO WILL HAVE TO BE COORDINATED WITH THE AMBASSADOR BEFORE WE PRESENT IT TO THE GOB THROUGH THE INFORMATION MINISTER.

6. LIMITED EXPANSION OF FACILITIES AT THE ISLAMABAD UNIT SEEMS

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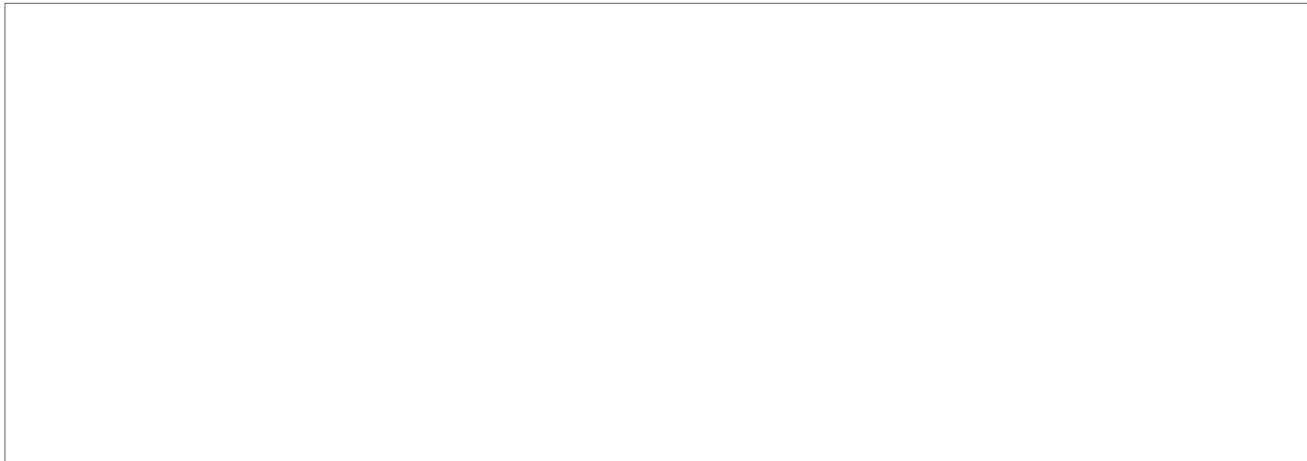
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TO ME A MORE COST EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO A SECOND RELAY OPERA-  
TION IN PAHRAN. THE RECENT SA CRUISING SURVEY MAY SUGGEST SOME  
GE PROGRAMS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE LOST WHICH COULD BE FED OVER  
ANOTHER SA/LD LINE OR A SIMILAR LINE TO NC. FOR EXAMPLE, PRC  
MAY WANT SOMETHING TO REPLACE THE OCCASIONAL GE FEEDS TO THEM OF  
POORLY HEARD PORTIONS OF THE TEHRAN 1030 CAST. A SINGLE MONITOR/  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR POSITION MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED TO ALLOW DIRECT  
MONITORING OF NON-RUSSIAN CENTRAL ASIAN BROADCASTS. ANOTHER  
SA/LD LINE COULD BE USED PART TIME TO SEND TELTYPE COPY TO LD  
FOR REVIEW, FINAL SELECTION, AND EDITING, AS IS DONE WITH FAU  
COPY. I BELIEVE AYTACHOGLU HAS THE ABILITY AND THE INITIATIVE TO  
HANDLE SUCH AN UNCONVENTIONAL SITUATION WELL, IF HE IS WILLING TO  
GO TO ISLAMAPAD.

7. SINCE REF DID NOT SET FORTH ANY GROUND RULES FOR PERSONNEL  
PLANNING, I AM ASSUMING FOR PURPOSES OF THIS EXERCISE THAT WE ARE  
NOT BOUND BY CIVIL SERVICE RULES ON SENIORITY, ETC., FOR REDUC-  
TIONS IN FORCE. IF SO, ADJUSTMENTS WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE.  
SINCE I HAVE NO IDEA OF HOW MANY GE MONITORS FBIS MAY WISH TO  
RETAIN, I HAVE LISTED THE NAMES (BY LANGUAGE/SECTION) IN THE ORDER  
OF PREFERENCE FOR RETENTION THAT I FEEL IS APPROPRIATE BASED ONLY  
ON PERFORMANCE.

8. ARABIC:

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12. ASSUMING BUREAU CLOSURE WITHIN THE FIRST MONTH OF FY-87 AND SEVERANCE OF ONLY THE TCN'S LISTED IN GRAF 11C. PLUS ALL LOCAL HIRES, I ESTIMATE SEVERANCE PAY COSTS OF [REDACTED] OBVIOUSLY, THERE WILL BE OTHERS FROM GRAFS 11A AND 11F WHO WILL OPT FOR SEVERANCE RATHER THAN TRANSFER OR FOR WHOM NO POSITION WOULD EXIST, AND THEY WILL RAISE THAT MINIMUM FIGURE SUBSTANTIALLY. [REDACTED] THE BUREAU EXPECTS TO SPEND ABOUT

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[redacted] THIS YEAR ANYWAY FOR THE KNOWN OR EXPECTED DEPARTURES OF  
[redacted]

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13. DFCL OADR DRV COL 14-82 BY [redacted] ALL CONFIDENTIAL.  
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