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### ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Abidjan Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

July 1987

STAT

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

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

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

1.

~~CHIEF, MOD~~

2.

~~CHIEF, COMM-CTR~~

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~~SA/CB~~

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*C/VAX-Commo Section 8/9/87 8/12/87 AWL*

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Chief, MOD

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

MAB 6039  
1 August 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS  
THRU: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--July 1987

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. West Africa was the venue for an unprecedented and historic joint sojourn by a 50-member plus delegation of "liberal" South African Afrikaners and ANC members. The delegation visited Senegal, 9-12 July; Burkina Faso, 13-15 July; and Ghana, 15-17 July. The respective groups in the delegation were led by Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, well-known South African political figure and director of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative in South Africa (IDASA), and by Thabo Mbeki, director for the ANC information service. The delegation was received in Dakar by Senegalese President Diouf, in Ouagadougou by Burkinabe President Sankara, and in Accra by Ghanaian Chairman Rawlings. The delegation and their hosts engaged in a free and open exchange and dichotomy of views. The delegation issued a statement that IDASA and ANC groups would meet again in 1 year's time in an unspecified African country.

2. On 1 July, Nigeria's Armed Forces Ruling Council announced the long-awaited findings of the government white paper on the nation's future form of government. Later, in a speech broadcast to the nation, President Ibrahim Babangida noted the major points of the white paper which were: the return to civilian rule will take place in 1992 instead of 1990 as planned earlier; the presidential system of government will be maintained; only two political parties will be sanctioned; and there will be a bicameral legislature, with a Senate and House of Representatives patterned after the U.S. system. President Babangida emphasized that any military disengagement from the political arena and return to civilian rule must be gradual and orderly.

3. On the morning of 24 July, an Air Afrique airline jet was hijacked over Italy and forced to land in Geneva. Air Afrique is a multinational African-owned and operated airline with headquarters in Abidjan, where the hijacked jet is registered. The latter fact prompted Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny to order the plane's crew not to take off from Geneva. Initial reports on the hijacking were monitored from Paris AFP and were covered jointly with Austria Bureau. The bureau alerted AMEMBASSY Abidjan to the incident and kept it abreast of developments.

4. The 23d OAU heads of state and government summit was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27-29 July. Chadian President Hissein Habre attended the summit for the first time and championed the Chadian cause in the long-standing territorial dispute with Libya. The Chad-Libya conflict was a prominent issue at the summit during which the participants called for a peaceful solution.

B. Communications

BACH 1.3A was received and installed in the Communications Section this month. The bureau is now using the automated equipment as the primary communications system. Extels and telex are being used as back-ups.

C. Lateral Services

At the invitation of the DCM, an FBIS staff representative now attends the Ambassador's semi-monthly political team meeting.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Junior editor [redacted] and his wife, [redacted], arrived PCS on 13 July.

2. Staff engineer [redacted] returned from R&R on 9 July. TDY engineer [redacted] who had filled in for [redacted] departed on 13 July.

3. Deputy Chief [redacted] departed on 19 July for a 4-week R&R in CONUS. Financial/Administrative assistant [redacted] departed on 20 July for 6 weeks of home leave.

4. FBN [redacted] received a PSI during the month.

B. Buildings and Grounds

Embassy contractors have finally completed construction of solid vehicular and pedestrian security gates at the five staff residences. This brings to completion all of the residential security enhancements begun in the fall of 1986.

III. VISITS

1. The bureau was visited during the month by three officers from headquarters components: [redacted] Deputy Chief/Operations Group/OIT and [redacted] Operations Duty Officer/OIT on 9 July; and [redacted] Chief/Africa Program/Production Group/FBIS, 15-18 July.

2. Newly-assigned political liaison officer Allan Simon was briefed on bureau operations during a short orientation visit on 2 July.

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Bureau Chief, Abidjan Bureau

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**Attachments:**

**Monthly Production Report**

**cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau  
Deputy Chief, London Bureau**