



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

MAB 6032
1 March 1987

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

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Chad continued to dominate the bureau's coverage in February. Amidst continued reports of fighting in the north, some below the key 16th parallel demarcation line, several African leaders came out in support of the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Chad--a move widely interpreted as being anti-Libyan in nature. Among those making such calls were the heads of state of Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and Gabon and the Nigerian foreign minister. Another blow was struck to Libyan interests in Chad when the former vice president of GUNT--the Libyan-backed opposition to President Habre's government--called for ceasing opposition to Habre and returned to Ndjamena. Diligent work by bureau personnel along with BBC cruising observations allowed us to add an 1100 GMT (clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio cast to our normal coverage and complete a detailed cruising effort on Ndjamena. Both stations remain only poorly heard and erratic.

2. Several items were filed for BBC on the flap arising over the opening and subsequent closing of a new United Kingdom visa office in Lagos, Nigeria.

B. Coverage

Both AFP English and the Zairian news agency, AZAP, also provided challenges. For the most of the month, AFP's English language beam to West Africa failed to follow announced frequencies or changed to new frequencies at unannounced times. The editorial staff was usually able to track this erratic pattern though not without considerable effort. On 27 February new AFP English frequencies were announced and to date they have been adhered to. AZAP appeared to be totally off the air for several days on all known frequencies. This problem was finally solved when an enterprising editor tracked them down on a new frequency only to have them return to their normal frequency the following day.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Monitor supervisor received a promotion to FBN-11/6 effective 15 February.

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2. The Embassy Administrative Office has requested bids for contracting out the management of some 200 employee association support personnel, including the bureau's custodial and driver staff. The conversion to personal services contracts--to be accomplished at this post by the end of May--is in response to a State Department policy of phasing out all employee association contracts.

III. VISITS

1. David Halstead, State Department deputy director for West African Affairs, visited the bureau on 19 February.

2. The bureau chief, deputy chief, engineer and chief monitor visited the chief press attache in the Ivorian Foreign Ministry to discuss bureau services to the Ivorian Government. ✓

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Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau