



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

MAB 6030  
1 February 1987

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

I. GENERAL

A. Most mission activity this month centered around preparations for visits from high level U.S. Government officials. Secretary of State George Shultz visited Ivory Coast from 13-15 January as part of a six country Africa tour which also included Cameroon, Senegal, Nigeria, and Liberia in West Africa. The Secretary's visit was followed 16-19 January by that of a congressional delegation headed by Florida Congressman Claude Pepper. Later during the month Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley brought a 22-member trade delegation to meet with members of the Ivory Coast Government and business community. In general, Abidjan appeared to be the "hot spot" for American visitors from all fields of endeavor including rock singer Robert "Kool" Bell of the group "Kool and the Gang", who stopped through for a week to discuss an agricultural business venture with local businessmen and to sign autographs at a local shopping center.

B. The dollar experienced a significant drop against the CFA during the month. The CFA/USD exchange rate went from a high of 321/1 on 2 January to 298/1 at the end of the month. The Embassy economic counselor is predicting a continued downward trend with the CFA possibly reaching 250 before the end of the year. In response to the falling dollar, the post cost of living allowance was increased from Class 42 to Class 50 on 18 January, an increase of about 20 percent for bureau staff employees.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In connection with the visit of Secretary of State Shultz, the bureau provided all affected regional embassies with previsit comment, reportage during the visit, and comment and analysis of the results of the visit from regional radios. Comment was generally quite favorable but the Nigerians took issue with the vigor with which the Secretary's security team pursued their task. BBC's East Africa Unit provided backstop PANA coverage during the Secretary's visit to Senegal due to poor reception of Dakar radio at Abidjan Bureau.

2. In Chad there was heavy fighting throughout the month between

Libyan-backed insurgents and troops loyal to Chadian President Habre. On 4 January, the Libyans attacked Arada, south of the 16th parallel which had served as a demarcation line between French and Libyan forces. France retaliated on 7 January by bombing a Libyan radar installation in the north of Chad. As the month ended, there were numerous reports of Libya increasing the number of troops in Chad and of continued fighting in the north.

3. Among the other notable events of the month were the traditional flurry of New Year's speeches by regional leaders; a canceled summit in Yamoussoukro involving Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, and Burkina Faso; and the Niger head of state's stroke which required him to be evacuated to France for treatment. The bureau also provided extensive coverage of the visit to Ghana and Nigeria by British Minister of State Lynda Chalker.

B. Technical

The bureau's engineering team has completed installation of press rack antenna matrix select switches. This installation allows editors to select any one of six antennas for optimum reception of press services.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Bureau engineer [redacted] received a promotion effective 4 January. STAT

2. Monitor supervisor [redacted] was named acting chief monitor replacing [redacted] who retired in December. Senior monitors [redacted] will serve as acting monitor supervisor for 3 months each, after which time a permanent supervisor will be named. [redacted] will continue to fill the second monitor supervisor position. STAT  
STAT  
STAT

3. Monitor supervisor [redacted] received a PSI during the month. STAT

B. Buildings and Grounds

The pace of residential security enhancements was stepped up near the end of the month. Safehaven and/or solid core exterior doors with peepholes and dead bolt locks have been installed in three residences by an Embassy contractor. Also, the bureau engineer and technician have completed installation of burglar alarm systems in three of the five staff residences.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

1. On 16 January Deputy Chief [redacted] briefed the visiting congressional delegation headed by Congressman Pepper on bureau operations. STAT

2. Engineer [redacted] was drafted into service as one of 10 Embassy STAT

couriers who shuttled between Secretary of State Shultz' communication center in the Hotel Ivoire and the U.S. Embassy. [redacted] drew the graveyard shift, pulling duty from 2000-0600.

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3. Bureau chief [redacted] along with five other Country Team members served as an official judge for the mission's first West Africa Chili Cookoff (WACCO) organized to benefit the Marine House. The judges had a difficult time agreeing on the winners but were unanimous in the opinion that the task of judging the nine entries was made easier by the fact that large quantities of cold beer and a bottle of champagne were supplied to cleanse their palates between tastes.

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[redacted]

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Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau  
Deputy Chief, London Bureau