

30 Aug 1987

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TEL AVIV BUREAU

1. LOCAL STAFF: The bureau is currently two under its monitorial T/O [redacted] with the chief monitor slot vacant and recruitment underway to fill the slot vacated by a Hebrew/Arabic monitor. The language units consist of Hebrew [redacted] Turkish [redacted], and Persian/Dari [redacted]. The bureau has one associate editor.

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2. PRODUCTION: Bureau output had declined sharply in recent years from 438,000 monthly publishable wordage in 1983 to 207,000 in 1986. In response, the bureau sought early this year to lower its threshold in some areas, but has subsequently had to contend with a communicator shortage, which will hold down output.

3. COVERAGE ISSUES

A. CRUISING: Recommend we continue to hold this position open and plan to fill it early next year. The bureau itself offers more of a training opportunity than a real cruising challenge since both Jordan and Nicosia are better able to respond to actual requirements. But we have only three other field locations for staff cruisers, and by next year we'll probably have only two. If the Tel Aviv position is retained and filled, we should plan to have a senior cruising officer TDY there several times to provide guidance and evaluation of the junior cruiser. We should also ensure that the staffer not be assigned excessive non-cruising duties.

B. FACSIMILE: Facsimile equipment would enable the bureau to expedite West Bank Arabic press materials to Nicosia and Jordan for faster processing and, if necessary, speed up the bureau's own access to Turkish press materials.

C. ARABIC CAPABILITY: The bureau has been recruiting locally for joint Hebrew-Arabic capability for about two months. Two monitors now on board provide some capability.