

6 May 1986
MJN 8609

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: : Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--April 1986

I. GENERAL

A small, brief, well-policed demonstration against the U.S. bombing of Libya was held in front of the embassy on 16 April. So far this has been the only outward manifestation of condemnation of the U.S. action in Jordan. Obviously, the embassy joined all missions worldwide to increase security measures and step up alertness to the possibility of reprisals against American targets. No such incidents have yet been reported in Jordan.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In response to a phonecall from the Wire, Acting Bureau Chief [] opened the bureau at 0430 local time on the 15th^{STAT} to cover for reaction to the U.S. bombing raid against Libya. Principal embassy officers were notified of the situation by phone. The bureau then instituted round-the-clock operations through the 16th. On the 18th we implemented the emergency backstop coverage plan to cover for Nicosia Bureau's closure as a result of reaction to the Libya raid. The backstop coverage lasted until the 22d, when Nicosia Bureau resumed operations. The time and effort that went into compiling and updating the emergency backstop plan paid high dividends in the ease of coordination and coverage among the backstop bureaus.

2. The bureau prepared for AG an editorial report providing monitors' views on the new Jordanian electoral law, which, when implemented, will significantly alter West Bank Palestinian representation in Jordan's parliament. We have also acquired an unofficial translation of a speech made in the Senate by former Prime Minister 'Ubaydat criticizing the electoral law. The speech was not covered in the local media. We are pouching the translation to AG.

3. Receipt of the Iraqi papers has, at long last, been stabilized. In fact, we are now receiving the papers--AL-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH--with only 1-2 days lag, which is significantly better than before the distribution dispute arose.

B. Lateral Services

1. At their request, U.S. Embassy Kuwait was dropped from most of the Middle East packages in which they were included. The volume of traffic was overwhelming them.

III. VISITS

A. From the bureau

1. Bureau Chief [redacted] 8-18 April to Washington to attend the annual bureau chiefs conference. STAT

IV. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

A. Bureau Chief [redacted] has been elected to the board of the American Embassy Employees Association. STAT

[redacted] STAT
Chief, Jordan Bureau

ATT: Monthly Production Report