

3 April 1986
MJN 8608

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

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The long-awaited PLO response to King Husayn's highly critical 19 February speech terminating political coordination with the PLO came on 8 March. The PLO-authorized official text of the statement was processed from Amman Television Service. The conciliatory tone of the PLO statement indicated that the PLO felt they had won this round in the propaganda showdown with King Husayn. Local reaction to the PLO statement, coming as it did in the aftermath of the assassination of the moderate Palestinian mayor of Nabulus, Zaher al-Masri, seemed to bear out the PLO view.

2. "Sporadic" still, unfortunately, describes the receipt of Iraqi papers at the bureau. Just when we have about finally given up, a batch or two of papers arrives, sometimes even in duplicate from two suppliers. We have now again been assured that the delivery problems have been resolved and that we will be getting regular deliveries.

B. Lateral Services

1. At the request of the embassy political section, the bureau prepared the embassy's daily "Arabic Media Review" the week of 16-20 March while the regular writer was hospitalized. The review, prepared by three separate monitors in turn, provided an opportunity for them to become more closely attuned to embassy needs and interests. The political section was effusive in its praise for our stand-in job.

2. In response to a request from USAID, the bureau translated approximately 25 local press articles on reaction to the on-again, off-again government agricultural price controls on fruits and vegetables. AID wanted the materials to use in the ongoing efforts to convince the Jordanian Government of the benefits to removing price controls. We are continuing to process similar items as they appear.

II. VISITS

A. To the Bureau

1. FBIS Director [redacted] 21-24 March.

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Chief, Jordan Bureau

ATT: Monthly Production Report