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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

3-5991

NO

DATE

April 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

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OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

C/MOD

2.

3.

C/ESG

4.

5.

C/FED

6.

7.

C/ADD

8.

9.

C/HED

10.

11.

C/Computer Operations

12.

13.

14.

15.

Retain/Destroy

FBIS-6023-88
2 May 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- April 1988

I. GENERAL

Secretary of State Shultz returned to Israel on the 3d in another round of shuttle diplomacy. Looking for Israeli and Arab acceptance of the U.S. proposals on a negotiated Middle East peace agreement, the secretary found little encouragement, according to media reports, during his visits to Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, with all parties showing little inclination publicly to back away from their stated positions--positions that reinforce the continuing impasse.

The relative calm that was developing in the territories came to an abrupt end when, on the night of 15 April, unknown assailants killed Khalil al-Wazir (alias Abu Jihad), the deputy commander of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces, in his home in Tunis. The violence following the killing led to a new single-day death toll high in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with 12 Palestinians killed on the 16th.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Following headquarters concurrence, the bureau began a subscription to the Goldnet electronic mail service. Israeli GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE material, which is delivered electronically to Goldnet, will be covered by accessing the bureau's Goldnet "mailbox" and quickly downloading the GPO file into a stand-alone IBM PC/XT. Although still in its shakedown phase, the new coverage method is expected to be very convenient while eliminating the 1-2 day delay that plagues the hard copy version.

2. Coverage of (Clandestine) Al-Quds' Palestinian Arab Radio in Hebrew was transferred to Tel Aviv Bureau. Tapes of Hebrew items are recorded at Jordan Bureau and forwarded via the embassies' Allenby Bridge courier run for review in Tel Aviv. Although the first few tapes have proven unproductive, the bureau is pleased to be involved in coverage of a source that is of such high interest to our local consumers.

3. In an effort to keep bureau and MOD records current, a spring reception survey of Cairo Television is being conducted by the editors.

B. Communications

The new message format was inaugurated at Tel Aviv Bureau on the 28th. Automation contributed to the basically painless transition.

C. Lateral Services

Beginning the day before the secretary's visit and continuing until several hours after his departure, the bureau was frequently in contact with Mr Shultz' party to provide updates on the security situation in Israel, Middle East reporting on the secretary's trip, and the ongoing hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner. The chief of security called the bureau just prior to his departure to express his appreciation for the "fine support from FBIS."

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. For the first time in several years, Tel Aviv is serving as a training bureau. TDY trainee [redacted] arrived on the 19th. STAT

2. Bureau Engineer [redacted] was away for a 3-week TDY, during which he visited Milan, where he installed a computer local area network, and Vienna, where he received a brief bureau orientation prior to his summer 1988 PCS there. STAT

3. Communications operator [redacted] was promoted to FBN 5/3. STAT

4. A cost-of-living increase of 4.9 percent, retroactive to 1 March, has been granted to local employees as an interim measure while the mission waits for State Department action on the wage scale adjustment. The long-awaited adjustment to the wage scale, which would be retroactive to January, is expected to take place in May.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The bureau's involvement in the mission's educational facilities became deeper in April when Deputy Chief [redacted] became chairman of the school board of the American International School in Israel and [redacted] wife of Senior Editor [redacted] stepped into the chairmanship of the American Embassy Women's Group Preschool school board.

[redacted] STAT
Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

cc: JN, NC

Attachments: Production Report