

*File Copy*

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

3-5991

NO

DATE

March 1988

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

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

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

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

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-6018-88  
5 April 1988

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

## I. GENERAL

Well into their 4th month, the disturbances in the territories have prompted increasing economic pressures on Palestinian Arabs, typified by an Israeli embargo of gas deliveries. The Palestinian response has taken many forms, including heavy pressure from activists on government-employed Arabs to leave their posts. Policemen have made up the bulk of those who have yielded to the pressure. In an effort to contain unrest during the Palestinians' observance of "Land Day," Israeli authorities tightened security in the territories, including a complete closure of the Gaza Strip, the first time such an extreme step has been taken since 1967.

With the exception of increased wordage, the highest publishable volume since May of 1984, and some overtime, the events in the territories have not yet affected bureau operations. Travel by embassy staff and dependents has been restricted, however, to pre-1967 Israel and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future. This restriction precludes any visits to East Jerusalem, including the Old City, and Bethlehem.

As for the peace process, Prime Minister Shamir visited Washington in March but returned after, according to most reports, accomplishing little more than restating his objection to the U.S. version of an international conference. Secretary Shultz returned to the Middle East on 3 April in the hope of keeping the U.S. initiative alive.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. During March the bureau completed a sampling of the Palestinian Press Service. Mostly because it is subject to military censorship, the service was found to be unproductive, so the bureau recommended that it not be placed on permanent coverage.

2. On the 7th three terrorists who had infiltrated across the Egyptian border hijacked a bus near the Israeli nuclear facility at Dimona. When the terrorists began shooting their hostages one at a time, an antiterrorist squad stormed the bus. The three terrorists were killed, but not before three civilian workers from the nuclear facility had been shot. The death of the civilians elicited some criticism of how the incident was handled by security forces.

3. Following a report that the PRC had supplied intermediate range missiles to Saudi Arabia, Shamir aide Ben-Aharon hinted in the United States that Israel might consider a preemptive strike against the missiles. Ben-Aharon's remarks caused a flurry of critical remarks from many countries and even from within his own party. He later claimed that he made no direct threat, noting that the United States is dealing with the issue. A message from LRB emphasized the need to file liberally on the topic.

4. Signs of improved relations between Turkey and Greece appeared in March in a joint communique issued in Brussels after a meeting between the Greek and Turkish prime ministers. Among the many positive developments outlined by the communique was a plan for Turkish Prime Minister Ozal to visit Athens in June. Other signs of rapprochement were seen during the month in Ozal's announcement that Greece would not oppose Turkish membership in the EEC and in the unprecedented move of Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz hosting the departing Greek ambassador to Ankara. Apparently inspired by the spirit of the Brussels meeting, Rauf Denktas, president of the "Turkish Republic of North Cyprus," offered a package of "goodwill proposals" to newly elected Greek Cypriot leader Vasiliou. Vasiliou rejected the proposals, citing many long-standing issues.

#### B. Communications

The head of the local [ ] visited the bureau to brief communications operators, technicians, and editors on [ ] operations and our interface with them. The visit is expected to improve the efficiency of [ ] coordination on communications problems.

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#### C. Lateral Services

At the request of Jordan Bureau, Tel Aviv is preparing a list of West Bank mayors. The list will be sent to headquarters and all interested bureaus both in hardcopy and on a floppy disk.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

In her capacity as a member of the American Embassy Women's Group Outreach Committee, [redacted] wife of Senior Editor [redacted] served as one of the coordinators of the AEWG's 1988 "Games Day." This special event is one of the major charity benefits on the diplomatic community's social calendar. Susan has also traveled to various local social service facilities to determine how best to use the group's funds. Her very active participation in the AEWG is rounded out by her membership on the preschool school board.

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SIAT

[redacted]  
Acting Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

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cc: JN, NC

Attachments: Production Report