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Chapter 11 OPERATIONS UNDER WAR DEPARTMENT

FBIS operations resumed on 2 January 1946 with few changes apparent. The staff was down to 275, slightly over half of the peak figure, but hopes were high. Loss of personnel in PACOB since the spring of 1945 had been about 20 percent, and in London it was at least that low. Most of the decrease was in Washington and Portland. Two field correspondents attached to U.N. monitoring posts still were serving FBIS -- Spencer Williams in New Delhi and Edward Berkman in Cairo. Shepherd immediately wrote to heads of all monitoring posts, and to Williams and Berkman, outlining developments and explaining relations with the Army. There actually would be little change in procedures, he said, but a more "intelligent job of monitoring" could be expected.*

On 17 January 1946, Shepherd announced the headquarters organization. Ellis Porter would be Chief Editor, his primary function being to establish liaison with primary users of FBIS products and ascertain their needs. Gordon Goodnow would head the Publications Division, publishing the three Daily Reports and

* Shepherd attributed this hope of better monitoring to the fact that, as employees of the War Department, "we will have much closer connections with intelligence requirements." FBIS Records, National Archives.

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overseeing the Wire Service. Philip K. Edwards would be Executive Officer to handle administrative detail internally and establish administrative liaison with the War Department. The same day Porter issued the first FBIS Target List, prepared after conferences with FBIS subscribers. It was sent to all field and Headquarters offices. This first list contained five very general categories of information needed by intelligence offices. The Target List was issued weekly thereafter, signed at first by Porter. By 15 February 1946 the list had grown to 16 items and was signed by "R. F. Ennis, Director of Intelligence, MIS." Steady growth continued, and by 3 July 1946 the Target List contained 22 items, many of them subjects that FBIS was quite unlikely to obtain from broadcast monitoring. Field editors soon began to doubt the value of the Target List, but it remained. With transfer to the Central Intelligence Group (CIG), the Target List was continued, signed at first by Richard B. Kline.

Solution of Communications Problems

The first noticeable gain for FBIS under War Department sponsorship was its incorporation into the Signal Corps communications system, which had undergone considerable growth and improvement during the war. FBIS communications in the Pacific, 51,000 words a day in August 1945, already were handled fully by the

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military, but this was a special case. The close and direct service given by FBIS in the field somewhat obligated the military; Signals had taken over FBIS transmissions between Honolulu and San Francisco because it felt this would be less confusing than to have FBIS telefax assigned communications channels. In the European theater, too, Signals already was handling part of the FBIS traffic, but in each case there had been a special reason to make it seem that by serving FBIS it was advancing the cause of the Armed Forces. Now, as a division of the War Department, FBIS could insist that Signals was obligated to carry its traffic.

It was in London that benefits of being in the Army communications system were most noticeable. Already, by March 1945, FBIS London was sending more traffic via Signals than through Western Union (WU). In February 1945 the FBIS contract with PW had been cancelled, with Signals being used for the bulk of routine copy and WU for more urgent material. The principal London complaint was that FBIS had to depend largely on OWI in its liaison with Signals. In a letter to Fred Brace in London on 13 March 1946, Ben Hall congratulated him on the noticeable improvement since transfer to the War Department. Now, he said, the Washington office was getting copy directly through

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a Pentagon hookup. Previously it had depended upon an OWI drop, as "FBIS had been forced to depend on OWI to a considerable extent to get things done."* The United States Information Service (USIS) of State, which had replaced OWI, still filed copy jointly with FBIS.** Brace informed the London staff on 11 April 1946 that Signals was urging the office to file more copy. A minimum of 30,000 words a day was needed to justify the Cherbourg cable. As the USIS file had dropped to 7,500 words a day, FBIS should send a minimum of 22,500. London editors could remember when they were cautioned to keep the file below 15,000 words a day.

Arrangement for use of the Cherbourg cable was reported by Brace on 18 February 1946. He called it "the first fruits" of the transfer to the War Department. Previously, FBIS copy was filed to the USIS office in

* This dependence on OWI did not disappear suddenly. A memorandum by Hall on 26 February 1946 outlined difficulties in getting a duplex from the Pentagon so that traffic from Cairo could come directly and not have to go through OWI. It was not until March that arrangements were completed. Job 49-24, CIA Record Center.

** A Brace memorandum from London on 16 July 1946 reported that British Major Eric Frampton had gone on the FBIS payroll at a cost of \$4,500 yearly as of 1 July. Major Frampton had been in charge of USIS communications, and in the agreement for joint use of FBIS-USIS facilities in London, Frampton was transferred to FBIS. At this writing he still is in charge of FBIS communications in England. Ibid.

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Paris, then relayed to Frankfurt for transmission to the United States. A personnel shortage in the USIS office caused frequent delays. Much copy had to be diverted to WU at six cents a word. General Van Voorst in London requested a direct cable from FBIS London to Frankfurt. This was unavailable, so Signals suggested alternatives, one of them being the line to Cherbourg and a direct relay from there to the United States. In June 1946, when Shepherd was in London, he and Brace made a trip to Frankfurt to discuss further improvements in FBIS communications, including the relay of Cairo copy.*

Army Logistics Support

Aside from communications, Army support for FBIS was in some instances more than satisfactory but in others left something to be desired. Supplies and equipment were easy to get. In August 1946 Shepherd appealed to the Army for electric typewriters, which he said were "absolutely necessary for stencil cutting."

* Insofar as Cairo communications were concerned, transfer to the War Department did not solve the problems. In a letter to Hall in Cairo dated 10 October 1946, Shepherd commended Hall on the progress he had made in Cairo, but described ACS copy as "a mess" when it reached Washington. He suggested that Hall file the most important 5,000 words a day via commercial facilities in spite of the cost, moving the remainder via ACS. Job 51-13, CIA Records Center.

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FBIS had ten in use, all of them purchased between January and November 1941. Since they often were used 24 hours a day, some had been in use the equivalent of 15 years and were hard to keep in repair. There was no problem in getting replacements from the Army. Phil Edwards suggested to field offices on 21 May 1946 that it might be a good idea to stockpile supplies and equipment "to the extent we can do so without embarrassing our relations with the service commands." He explained that the War Department budget request for fiscal 1946-47 covered only personal services and communications funds to operate FBIS, with travel, supplies, and equipment to be "squeezed out" of various service departments. In case of transfer to another agency, he said, it might be difficult to find funds for supplies. In Washington, transport was assigned to Fort Myer. FBIS officials could call for Army cars for trips to see War Department officials. Silver Hill vehicles were sent to Fort Myer for repair and maintenance. Similar services were available in the field.

Behrstock informed Shepherd on 28 May 1946 that Fort Shafter had approved a building and improvement plan for the Kauai station to cost up to \$130,000. It included a new water system, enlargement of five

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buildings, painting of all buildings inside and out, and other improvements. Behrstock said the Army had considered complete replacement of all residences at a cost of \$320,000, but had decided against that when it was learned FBIS had only a five-year lease on its property. On the other hand, Behrstock complained vehemently on 3 September 1946 at the rent scale adopted by the Army for Kauai housing. FBIS employees had paid FCC a nominal rental, based on the size of the house, and with little variation, as the houses were all very much alike. The Army sought to apply its own rental scale, based on salary. This would have doubled the total rental, with some employees having their rent tripled. An exception was made, and the old rental rates maintained.

The Army policy arousing most dissatisfaction among FBIS employees was that regarding grades and salaries. All promotions and reclassifications were frozen pending investigations by War Department classification analysts. Investigations were slow, and often the recommendations were considered unacceptable by many FBIS employees. War Department analysts, familiar with offices consisting primarily of clerical employees, invariably thought the average salary and grade for an FBIS office, consisting mainly of editors and monitors, was too high. Many employees had been promised

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promotions long before transfer to the War Department, and others had reason to think their positions would be raised to a higher classification. Months passed, with promotions and classes remaining frozen. Writing to Brace on 17 May 1946, Edwards expressed sympathy for London staff members who had been promised home leave months before, and blamed "Army red tape" for the delay.

In a memorandum on 7 March 1946, just before starting his vacation, Shepherd assured employees the classification survey about to be completed would "cause no concern to the staff." He was overly optimistic. Number of positions approved by the Army was satisfactory -- 160 for Headquarters and 128 in the field. This gave some room for expansion. The grades approved were considered unacceptable. A memorandum for Shepherd from Jesse Levitt on 27 March 1946 denounced the cut of assistant chiefs in the Monitoring Department from CAF-11 to CAF-10. Writing to Behrstock on 23 April 1946, Shepherd explained that classification analysts had cut the Director's grade from CAF-15 to CAF-13. The War Department agreed to a compromise CAF-14. Shepherd said he was appealing this to CSC. The highest grades he was confident of having approved for division chiefs, Shepherd continued,

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was CAF-13. All positions had been cut one to two grades by the analysts, with a top of CAF-12 recommended for field station chiefs. A letter from Wally Klima on 2 August 1946 complained bitterly at his cut in grade as chief engineer in the Pacific from P-5 to P-4, as recommended by a classification analyst from Fort Shafter. She also had recommended cutting the PACOB Chief's grade to CAF-12 and the Chief Field Correspondent at Kauai to CAF-11, but had agreed to delay these cuts pending information from Washington. On the Chief Engineer's cut she was adamant. The struggle over grades continued until after the takeover by CIG, and of course it still was several months before changes were agreed to.

Despite Shepherd's 1945 promise that if FBIS were allowed to continue he would release its information to the domestic press and radio, the War Department soon vetoed that policy. Replying to a query concerning the sending of Daily Reports to university libraries, Shepherd said on 13 June 1946 that a new policy in effect on 15 June forbade distribution to any non-governmental office. During the 1946 summer months, Max R. Shohet, in charge of the Special Services Section, wrote letters daily explaining that FBIS was equipped to serve only the minimum needs of government agencies.

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Replying to a letter from a LOOK magazine writer on 16 August 1946, Shepherd agreed that he could have access to Soviet broadcasts, but only with the understanding that the source of the information not be divulged and that the practice -- opposed to general policy -- would not be considered as a precedent.

A letter to various news writers and radio commentators on 8 January 1946 by General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, head of CIA, explained that on 10 June 1946 the War Department had discontinued distribution of the Daily Report to private individuals and organizations. Under CIG sponsorship, he said, that policy would be reversed. FBIS materials would be made available to the "American press and radio for use in the public interest." Because of budgetary limitations, he explained further, the publications would for the present be sent to "radio and press organizations," not to individuals.*

* The Vandenberg action was taken after full discussion by FBIS and several CIG officials. An ORE memorandum dated 7 November 1946 discussed fully the pros and cons of releasing FBIS materials to the press and radio, decided that radio commentators and news correspondents should have access, and recommended that the CIG Director "modify the present policy of suppression of FBIS reports." General Edwin L. Sibert, new head of the Office of Operations, endorsed this recommendation by ORE and others. On the day Vandenberg issued his order, Shepherd wrote to a number of universities and libraries saying that policy had been changed, and FBIS was turning over to the Library of Congress 36 copies of each Daily Report to be distributed. Job 54-27, Box 10, CIA Records Center.

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Plans for Expansion

Writing to Ted Berkman on 4 January 1946, Shepherd remarked that during the past six months of uncertainty there had been no planning for worldwide coverage by FBIS. Now it was necessary to review monitoring possibilities of each station and analyze requirements. Though Shepherd did not mention it in this letter, the first important move was to nail down the cooperative agreement with the BBC. It already was evident that BBC monitoring would continue, and access to its great wealth of information was such a demonstrated asset that FBIS must try to hold it. Pragmatism dictated the first major effort to please BBC, and also to expand FBIS coverage. MOI had built up the Cairo monitoring post, under Major Frazer, to nearly 100 employees. By the spring of 1946 it became evident that MOI, like OWI, was on the way out of monitoring. As soon as MOI made public its intention to close down the Cairo operation, Shepherd moved to take it over. This pleased BBC, for though Cairo monitoring was important to its users, BBC could not even consider operating the post. Shepherd gave immediate assurances that BBC would have access to the Cairo monitored product, and could send as many editors as it wished to Cairo to select copy. The announcement that FBIS

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was taking over the Cairo post was made on 17 May 1946, and as soon as arrangements could be made, Ben Hall was sent there to run the station.

Hall arrived in Cairo early in July 1946, accompanied by John Pfau, who had been an engineer in the Pacific and later headquarters administrative officer, and attempted a reorganization in accordance with FBIS methods and standards. He found it a difficult task. In a letter to Shepherd on 29 July, Hall described the "horrible state" of the office, with "no work schedules," no liaison with communications, and "no effort to improve." Shortly after he arrived, copy delivered two days earlier was returned with the explanation that communications had been reorganized and the copy would have to be sent to Payne Field. Pfau found receiving equipment in a bad state of repair and the office poorly organized. Hall remarked that he and Ellis Porter had often wondered why Cairo needed so many typists; it was because monitors and translators could not or did not type. Everything was copied. On the other hand, Hall found reception good for heavy coverage, and a large number of intelligent and capable employees. He felt that a good monitoring station could be developed.

In the summer of 1946, several FBIS bureau chiefs were called back to Washington to consider future plans.

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Writing to Tom Weiss on 26 June, Julian Behrstock remarked that "if the question came up," he would recommend that the Guam station be moved to Tokyo. He had learned that postwar Japanese broadcasts repeated press articles, so in Tokyo it would be possible to get the information without monitoring. At the time both Kauai and Guam still were devoting considerable effort to monitoring the Japanese radio. Behrstock had sufficient evidence that the subject would come up. In a letter on 19 February 1946, Ben Hall informed him that recommendations being considered were expansion of Washington monitoring, expansion of Latin American coverage, improvement of the London and Cairo offices, and the opening of another station farther out in the Pacific. Writing to Joseph Koop at Kauai on 15 February 1946, Hall reported that consideration was being given to reviving the Analysis Section and the War Department had approved the idea.*

* Shepherd continued to push for an analysis section and in a memorandum for General Sibert on 5 November 1946 reported that the need for a central organization to prepare studies on foreign propaganda had been well established, with both State and War approving the idea of basing such a study on radio broadcasts. He estimated that to set up such a unit FBIS would need 35 personnel and the cost would be \$150,000. If analysis of the central press were added, the cost and size of staff would be several times that. Job 55-5, Box 5, CIA Records Center.

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The Washington talks were held in early August 1946. Projects considered included a monitoring post on Kyushu in Japan, another on Palawan in the Philippines. Only two definite moves were approved: Behrstock was authorized to go to Tokyo to open a post; closing Guam; transfer of Portland to the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles was agreed upon.

The plan for postwar monitoring worked out by Hyneman's committee in 1945 did not include a West Coast station, for Portland was to close as soon as Pacific stations were operating fully. Portland continued to monitor, covering many of the same sources as Kauai. Communications delays and breakdowns from Kauai emphasized the value of rapid communications with the West Coast. Other considerations, such as refusal of some Portland and San Francisco employees to transfer, and their biased criticism of Kauai, gave Washington planners the feeling that it would be simpler to operate on the West Coast than on the more remote Kauai. When establishment of a large monitoring station in Japan or the Philippines became feasible, critics of Kauai convinced Shepherd and others that a West Coast post should be retained, with Kauai closed.

The obvious disadvantages of Portland remained. Very little consideration was given to keeping the

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station there. The next move, then, was to find another satisfactory West Coast location. Shepherd wrote Amory F. Penniwell, BRU chief at Portland, on 12 June 1946, informing him that word had been received from OSS that the site it had used in the San Fernando Valley was a place of "superior" reception.* He was instructed to make tests of stations covered by Kauai at this site, especially to learn if reception were satisfactory on Communist Chinese Morse code from Yen-an. Penniwell took a reception-testing team to Reseda, the location in question, and reported the place was all OSS claimed it to be.** Bertha Anderson,

* Although Shepherd did not mention it in this letter, it is apparent that the idea of moving to Reseda came from Portland originally, specifically from Penniwell. In a report to Shepherd dated 29 April 1946, Penniwell agreed that it would not do for FBIS to remain at Portland, and recommended a survey of a site in Southern California, 20 miles from downtown Los Angeles. Basing his forecasts on charts and the testimony from engineers in the area, Penniwell declared that FBIS reception would be immeasurably better -- as much as 100 percent better in some categories. He acknowledged that reception might be inferior to that of Portland on Russian broadcasts (ignoring the fact that Russian was becoming the material in greatest demand), but added that "present Portland reception is by far the worst we have experienced to date during the five years this station has been in operation. On 16 May 1946 Philip K. Edwards, Portland Chief, asked Washington to authorize reception tests in Southern California by Penniwell and his assistant, Clyde M. Gregory. Job 49-24, CIA Records Center.

** In a telephone conversation -- recorded -- between Penniwell in Reseda and Bertha Anderson in Portland on 31 July 1946, the question of costs came up. Penniwell agreed that this would present a serious problem if FBIS could not get equipment directly from Signals for the new project, but insisted that no matter what the cost it would be a good investment. Job 49-24, CIA Records Center.

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by then having succeeded Edwards as Portland Chief, wrote Penniwell on 1 September 1946 relaying instructions that he should return to Portland, leaving an engineer in charge. She informed him that the War Department had approved transfer of funds to set up a new installation, though Washington wanted the survey to continue.* On 9 October 1946 Mrs. Anderson wrote that the Reseda station still had not been approved officially, though it probably would be soon, and forecast that transfer of Portland to Reseda would take place in about six months.

Permanent Sponsorship of FBIS

Though War Department officials were willing to take over FBIS to forestall its demise, they had no intention of retaining it permanently, a truth that apparently many Army officers in the field never realized, as they treated FBIS as an integral and permanent unit of the Department. In Washington,

* In spite of Penniwell's clear preference for Reseda, he continued the survey at Washington insistence, making tests at a number of places in Southern California. In a memorandum for Pfau on 23 January 1947 he declared that after a thorough search it had become clear that the Reseda site was the best one. The second best, he said, was Camp Ord, near Monterey. The chief trouble with it was that it was "too far north." To take advantage of the fade-in and fade-out periods of the higher frequencies from the Orient, a "more southerly location is desirable." Another argument advanced by Penniwell for selection of the Reseda site was that there seemed to be little likelihood of developments in the area that would interfere with monitoring. Job 54-27, Box 9, CIA Records Center.

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FBIS officials recognized from the first that War Department sponsorship might be only temporary. That made them more determined to resist recommendations for lower classifications issued by War Department classification analysts and kept the freeze on grades and salaries. Ben Hall, writing on 11 March 1946, said it was difficult to establish permanent policy because FBIS might still be transferred to another agency, though he believed it would remain with the Army. Phil Edwards, in a letter dated 17 May 1946, said the status of FBIS was "still wrapped in uncertainty," not as to the permanence of monitoring, but as to its organizational location. Many factors still favored the State Department, he said. Edwards further informed Behrstock in a letter on 21 May 1946 that there was a strong possibility of transfer to State about the end of the fiscal year.

In January 1946, President Truman by executive order created the Central Intelligence Group (CIG), which was expected to be a coordinating agency, in essence the successor to OSS. At the same time the President created the National Intelligence Authority, made up of representatives of the War, Navy, and State Departments and the President's personal representative -- at that time Admiral Leahy. The National Security Act

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of 1947 transformed these into the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Council (NSC).

One of the first tasks assigned to the new CIG was final disposition of FBIS. On 12 February 1946, Adm. Sidney W. Souers was handed a memorandum signed by Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2. The memorandum described the taking over of FBIS by the War Department, documenting the account with copies of Secretary Patterson's letter of 21 December 1945 and Paul Porter's reply of 27 December. It then declared it "inappropriate and outside the scope of its responsibilities" for the War Department to continue to sponsor FBIS beyond the end of the fiscal year -- 30 June 1946. Vandenberg proposed that CIG assume responsibility for selecting the "most appropriate" government agency to direct the service. A committee of five members, representing CIG and the remaining four members of the Intelligence Advisory Board (IAB), was proposed to study the matter, decide what functions and facilities of FBIS should be continued in the national interest; what government agency should be assigned responsibility for continuing the operations; and the budgetary arrangements necessary.*

* C.I.G. 1, dated 25 February 1946. Vandenberg's memorandum is Enclosure B of the document. Organization and Management, History of FBIS, FBIS Executive Files.

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The proposal was unanimously approved by IAB, and the committee began its study.*

The committee recommended that FBIS remain with the War Department. Its conclusions were that the work of FBIS was essential and should be continued, but the operating organization should be liquidated and a new one set up for two reasons: FBIS publications circulated too generally to organizations and individuals, including some foreign agencies, and should be restricted to authorized intelligence offices of the U.S. Government;** personnel of FBIS had not been properly screened for security. The committee found that War, Navy, State, or CIG could readily operate the monitoring service, but if it stayed under the War Department the only action necessary would be the screening of employees. Any one of the others would have to add to the screening the setting up of administrative, budgetary, and communications facilities -- in other words, it would be better to remain with the War Department simply because War already was handling it. The report agreed that the State Department had the greatest use for the product

* C.I.G. Directive No. 2, dated 5 March 1946. Organization and Management, History of FBIS, FBIS Executive Files.

** It is interesting to note that when General Vandenberg took over as head of CIG, this policy was reversed. See page 292.

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of monitoring, but did not explain why State should not then, logically, take over the operation. As for CIG, the report stated that it should give direction to monitoring, but made a sharp distinction between "direction," which should be given centrally, and actual "operation."*

IAB approved the recommendations of the ad hoc committee, but the War Department refused to accept it. It was no more anxious than State to keep FBIS as a permanent acquisition. It advanced the argument that one CIG function was to operate intelligence services when those services were used by various intelligence organs. Therefore, operation of the monitoring service was properly a CIG function. In lieu of this, the War Department said, FBIS should be taken over by State, as the largest user of its services.**

The State Department quickly replied. Its study showed, the memorandum said, that it was impractical for State to take over FBIS. State concurred in the original decision that FBIS should stay with the War

* C.I.G. 1/1, dated 26 April 1946. Discussion in committee related as Appendix B. Organization and Management, History of FBIS, FBIS Executive File.

** C.I.G. 1/2, dated 8 May 1946, signed by NIA Secretary James S. Lay. Organization and Management, History of FBIS, FBIS Executive File.

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Department. It also approved the alternative of CIG's sponsoring directly the monitoring service and said it was willing to collaborate closely and support budget requests. The document further described the FBIS product as of great value and recommended a "comprehensive program for relocation of facilities" to improve coverage.*

This completed the Gaston and Alphonse act. Shepherd notified field offices early in August that FBIS had been taken over by CIG on 31 July. FBIS personnel received information directly from CIG explaining the transfer.** On 31 October 1946 Shepherd announced that transfer of personnel would be made on 3 November to CIG, "which has controlled FBIS operations for some time," with all transfers subject to investigation and reallocation of grades after a survey.*** The notice bore the additional

* C.I.G. 1/3, dated 4 June 1946. The State Department memorandum, signed by William L. Langer and dated 27 May 1946, is an enclosure. Organization and Management, History of FBIS, FBIS Executive files.

** Signed for the Director of Central Intelligence by Col. John Dabney, Assistant Executive Director, the document said that on 31 July the Director of Central Intelligence had "assumed control" of FBIS; that Theater and Army Commanders had been informed of the change in control, but would "continue to service FBIS installations as in the past"; and that the change in control did not imply any "important changes in FBIS personnel or interior administration at this time." Job 49-24, CIA Records Center.

*** In the Pacific, actual transfer of personnel was not made until the end of 1946, so employees on Kauai and Guam were under the War Department exactly a year.

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information that the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service would immediately become the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), with all publications and letterheads changed accordingly.

The transfer was received with enthusiasm in Headquarters. Phil Edwards wrote Ben Hall in Cairo on 6 November 1946 that the transfer had brought a great deal of confusion, but "nothing like the mess during the first few months under the War Department." This was largely due, he said, to the fact that CIG administrative personnel were "high-grade intelligent men instead of the CAF-3's and 4's we had to deal with in the War Department." They were cordial, too, "and act as though they were selling us something instead of resisting our maneuvers to put something over on them.*

At first FBIS was placed under the Office of Collection and Dissemination (OCD), but was transferred to the Office of Operations (OO) near the end of 1946.**

* Edwards reported approval for new tests in Japan and the Philippines, mentioned the possibility of a Frankfurt station, and said Gen. Sibert definitely would want to move the Middle East station somewhere else if it could not stay in Cairo. He added: "CIG's advisory board is now considering whether FBIS should be directed to undertake newspaper as well as radio reporting, and whether we should establish some sort of analysis division. It has cleared several hurdles already and seems likely to be okayed. Job 51-13, CIA Records Center

** CIG Administrative Order No. 22, dated 17 October 1946, on setting up the Office of Operations. Organization and Management, History of FBIS, FBIS Executive File

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Gen. E. M. Wright, Executive for CIG, issued a memorandum on 19 November 1946 defining the work of 00 and listing four objectives for FBIS: To monitor pertinent broadcasts of foreign nations; prepare daily transcripts of these broadcasts; distribute the information in accordance with distribution lists approved by OCD; and "arrange for worldwide coverage through establishment of authorized field stations, and/or approved agreements, when necessary, with other national or foreign activities providing a similar service." On 30 September 1946 Gen. Edwin L. Sibert, in charge of 00, was described by Shepherd in a letter to Behrstock as No. 2 man in CIG and "an enthusiastic supporter of monitoring," ready to fight necessary battles for FBIS. Sibert issued a statement for FBIS personnel on 31 December 1946 welcoming them into what he believed would be the "permanent home" of FBIS, informing that the name had been changed to the Foreign Broadcast Information Branch (FBIB), and expressing confidence that they would "continue" to give valuable support "to our intelligence operations."*

* On 2 January 1947 Sibert sent the following wire message to all field offices: "It is with great pleasure that I welcome FBIS into the 00 of CIG. For a long while I have been aware of the very substantial contribution made by your service to national intelligence. I have been aware, also, that for a long while FBIS has been an agency without a home. As a result, all of you have been subjected to strain caused by uncertainty. It is (continued next page)

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Despite the generally hopeful outlook and enthusiasm of FBIS officials, transfer from the War Department to CIG was not entirely frictionless. The CIG Fiscal Office, in a wire to Joseph Roop on Kauai on 11 April 1946, pointed out that the agreement with the War Department failed to allow for reimbursements "for nonexpendable items on hand," and that any FBIS obligations outstanding at the time of the transfer, "contractual or otherwise," must be borne by the War Department. The result of this ruling was long drawn-out litigation concerning some obligations, and considerable hardship for some FBIS employees.* There also was some question regarding Army communications. The Signal Corps in a letter to CIG on 17 December 1946 informed that no

(contd from footnote page 305) now my sincere belief that you have found a permanent home and a mother agency having your welfare at heart. As an indication of your new status, and that your agency has joined the Central Intelligence family, it has been designated as the FBIB. Mr. Russell Shepherd has been designated Chief FBIB. The Director of Central Intelligence and I have confidence in Mr. Shepherd and are counting on continued support of your whole organization to our intelligence operations." Job 54-27, Box 2, CIA Records Center.

* For example, Park Mark, a Chinese monitor hired in San Francisco for work in Kauai, did not get his family and household goods transferred prior to the transfer. He paid the cost himself, and was nearly a year getting reimbursement. CIG claimed it was a War Department cost, but the War Department refused to accept this. Job 51-13, CIA Records Center.

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curtailment of service to FBIS was anticipated in the Pacific, but FBIS traffic from Europe would be dropped by Signals early in the spring of 1947. Sibert protested this action, and in a letter to the Director on 19 December 1946 requested that IAB be called in to handle the matter.* Signals never carried through with its threat, but it did fail to provide satisfactory communications from Cairo. The high cost of commercial communications was a continuing problem there.

* Sibert pointed out that European traffic to Washington amounted to 40,000 words a day, which would cost a half million dollars via commercial channels for one year. Aside from Signals service, no other government communications were available. Job 54-27, Box 10, CIA Records Center.

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