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Approved For Release 2004/04/19 : CIA-RDP80R01731R003400110021-4  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

2430 E STREET NW.  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

20 MAY 1947

TO : Advisor for Management, ICAPS  
FROM : Assistant Director, OCD  
SUBJECT : Substitution of the "Daily Summary of Significant Foreign Radio Broadcasts" for the "A" and "X" Wire Services.

1. In accordance with your request, a survey has been made among the using agencies of the "A" and "X" wire services to determine whether the "Daily Summary of Significant Foreign Radio Broadcasts" in its present form or in an expanded form, can replace the "A" and "X" wire services.
2. The report of survey reflects that the "Daily Summary of Significant Foreign Broadcasts" in its present form or in an expanded form, cannot perform the same expeditious function as the wire services and in that respect, the Summary is not a satisfactory substitute for the "A" and "X" wire services.
3. The report of survey further indicates that an expanded "Daily Summary of Significant Broadcasts" would be partial duplication of the FBIB Daily Reports, except that the Summary would also contain the contents of the "X" wire. In this connection, the Daily Summary is purposely brief in format so that top level executives can find the time to read the important foreign broadcasts of the day and an expanded Summary might defeat this purpose. There is little difference in the time of delivery of the Daily Summary and the Daily Reports.
4. The report also discloses that the wire service furnished Room 127, Main State Department Press Room has been inoperative for some time and is apparently not needed.
5. I concur in the findings of the survey and recommend that:
  - a. No action be taken to substitute the "Daily Summary of Significant Broadcasts" for the "A" and "X" wire services.
  - b. The wire service furnished the State Department Press Room at 127 Main State Department Building by FBIB be discontinued.

DOS & OSD review(s) completed.

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6. The report of survey is attached hereto. Please advise this office of the action taken.



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~~C. E. OLSEN~~  
Captain, U. S. N.  
Assistant Director for  
Collection and Dissemination

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20 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Subject: Monitoring of news services by FBIB

1. In compliance with your suggestion, ICAPS has considered the advisability of FBIB continuing to monitor AP news services and make confidential distribution to member intelligence agencies despite AP's disapproval.

2. This monitoring service intercepts a private Morse code broadcast from AP stations located abroad intended for the reception of subscribers to the AP local service. Information received from the CIG General Counsel reveals a Federal Communications Commission decision that such interceptions are in violation of international agreements, but there appears to be no precedent to determine whether a government activity is included in this restriction. It is understood that most governments of first class powers do engage in similar monitoring services, and furthermore there is a provision whereby a government is empowered to stop such press services if they are prejudicial to government interests. It therefore would appear extremely unlikely that the continuance of this monitoring service would result in lawsuits. However, it is quite possible that it might cause unfavorable criticism which CIG can ill afford at this time if dissemination is made of the product.

3. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Assistant Director for Operations be instructed to restrict the distribution of this monitoring service to internal CIG requirements, and that ICAPS be authorized to initiate the canvassing of member agencies to determine the ability and willingness of member agencies to subscribe to the AP local service.

[Redacted Signature Box]

DONALD EDGAR  
Chief, ICAPS

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REPORT ON REQUIREMENTS STUDY NO. 11A/1

(Survey Project No. 15B)

14 May 1947

SUBJECT: Substitution of the FBIB Daily Summary  
for "X" and "A" Wire Services

I. The Problem

1. To determine whether the FBIB "Daily Summary of Significant Broadcasts" in its present form or in an expanded form, can be made to replace the "A" and "X" Wire Service entirely.

II. Findings and Discussion

2. The "A" wire and "X" wire are hereinafter referred to as the "Wire Services". They are described as follows:

"A" Wire - contains all types of broadcast intercepts except American press dispatches.

"X" Wire - contains intercepts of American press dispatches.

The offices receiving these services are listed in Tab A.

3. The "Daily Summary of Significant Broadcasts" is hereinafter referred to as the "Daily Summary". The "Daily Summary" is also page one of the "Daily Report of Foreign Broadcasts", except for about 30 pink sheets of the Summary which are segregated and given distribution within CIG. The Daily Summary contains selected foreign broadcasts but does not contain AP, UP or INS press dispatches.

4. In order to simplify discussion on this subject, the problem is divided into three categories:

- a. Necessity for the wire services.
- b. Cost of wire services versus cost of a substitute Daily Summary.
- c. Problems concerned with substitution of the FBIB Daily Summary for the wire services.

**CONFIDENTIAL**5. Necessity for the wire services.

a. The wire services perform a necessary function for some of its recipients. A resume of the opinions of the officials interviewed is shown in Tab B. These opinions are about evenly divided on the question of whether the Daily Summary can be made to replace the wire services. Those responses which expressed the opinion that the substitution might be possible qualified it in many ways such as requiring that the Summary be expedited, divided into geographical sections and subject matter, etc. These opinions further indicated that the majority of branches in ID,WDGS find the wire services useful and valuable; ONI, Navy finds the wire services useful but not vital; some divisions in ID,WDGS and in ORE consider the service indispensable and extremely valuable. The various reactions of persons interviewed on this subject matter are tabulated in Tab C. These responses were recorded after the users were informed that the estimated cost of the wire services was about \$35,000 per year or approximately \$5,000 per recipient agency.

b. Discounting the understandable enthusiasm of analysts and researchers for source material so readily available, the basic characteristics of the wire services which make them helpful to the users are:

(1) Timeliness of Information

(a) The wire service furnishes information from 8 to 48 hours ahead of the Daily Summary. To those persons concerned with meeting deadlines of daily reports or briefing sessions, this time factor is of utmost importance. As one user stated it, the receipt of information on a timely basis is a condition precedent to the formulation of timely intelligence, which is the primary function of this branch. The wire service often furnishes the first information certain users have on important developments, which enables researchers and estimators to prepare for inquiries from persons who depend on those researchers.

(b) The wire services are considered in the nature of a "flash" service, which, in newspaper terminology, means that the information is of such value and timeliness and that it must be dispatched with the greatest speed to the recipient. The Daily Summary is based primarily on the past 24 hours and, therefore, loses much value as far as speed is concerned. In addition, the Summaries are more finished in composition and editorial treatment and require more corrective work.

(c) Another pertinent factor to be considered in weighing the value of the wire service is more probable than actual. Several persons who were interviewed stressed that the wire services were a convenient outlet in the event of an emergency or when important news is breaking, in which case the information could be immediately placed on the wires and quickly and simultaneously sent to all the receiving agencies. Further inquiry revealed, however, that since the war's end, a period of almost two years, no such emergency or important news has happened.

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(2) Coverage of Items - With some frequency, users of the wire service material observed that the coverage of the wire service was more detailed in some respects than the Daily Summary and the Daily Report. It gives "name information" which is important to the Biographical Desks and which the researchers fear will be excluded from the Daily Summary, especially the names of minor officials which are not considered worthy of inclusion in the Summary. Similar arguments, with respect to statistics, were advanced for those researchers who require statistical material of various kinds for the proper functioning of their sections. However, it is felt that in the event the Daily Summary were substituted for the wire services, these deficiencies could be corrected, to some extent, by studying the exact needs of these researchers and furnishing FBIB with guides as to the type of material required.

6. Cost of wire services versus cost of a substitute Daily Summary.

a. During the survey it became evident that the cost of the wire services should have some bearing on the matter. Efforts were made to obtain detailed estimates of the cost of the "X" and "A" wire services compared to the cost of a substitute service in the form of an expanded Daily Summary. However, it was stated that the personnel engaged in the production of "X" and "A" wire service also perform functions concerned with other operations. This close integration of operations was said to make it difficult if not impossible to make definite segregations and itemize the costs of various operations. A rough estimate of [redacted] per year for the cost of the wire services was presented. (Tab D). It was also stated, without further substantiation, that a Daily Summary to supplant the "A" wire service would cost approximately [redacted] per year. (Tab E). The indicated savings reflected by the difference in estimated costs cannot be taken at face value in view of the fact that some personnel engaged in the production of "A" and "X" wire services also perform duties connected with other operations of FBIB. Furthermore, the information used in "A" and "X" wire services would have to be produced through the same screening and editing operations which now obtain in order that the information provided in these services would be available for dissemination in another form.

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7. Problems concerned with substitution of the Daily Summary for the wire services.

a. As pointed out in the beginning, the Daily Summary does not contain American press dispatches. Unless the General Counsel, CIG gives a favorable opinion regarding the use and distribution of the AP, UP and INS press material in the Daily Summary, it would appear necessary to divide the Daily Summary into two sections. One section would then contain the American press dispatches and be given limited distribution; the other section would contain the other broadcast material and receive the same distribution as the present Daily Report of which it is a part. This procedure might prove too costly and cumbersome for the service it would give.

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b. It is strongly emphasized that the present Daily Summary is purposely brief in format so that top level executives may find time to read the significant foreign broadcasts of the day. To expand the Daily Summary would defeat this purpose. It would also make the Daily Summary a partial duplication of the Daily Report except that the Summary might also contain the contents of the "X" wire. There would be little difference in time of delivery in the Summary of the Daily Report.

8. Special reference should be made to the wire service going to Room 127 of the State Department Press Room. This is in addition to the service furnished to State Department Intelligence and State Department, OIC. This machine was turned off about two months ago pending the settlement of the legal questions involved in the use of the press material. A check with the State Department shows that the machine has not been missed and no one has bothered to complain that it had been shut off for this length of time. The Press Editor of the State Department is too busy to read the material and if calls come to him for any special items, the FBIB furnishes him with the necessary information from their Special Service Section.

III. Conclusion

9. The wire services are considered to be extremely valuable and indispensable to some units of ID, WDGS and ORE, CIG, and are considered valuable or of some value to the majority of users.

10. The weight of evidence and the consensus of the recipients is that the "Daily Summary of Significant Broadcasts" in its present form or in an expanded form cannot perform the same expeditious function as the wire services and, in that respect, the Daily Summary is not a satisfactory substitute for the "A" and "X" wires and cannot replace the wire services.

11. Any substantial expansion of the Daily Summary would make it a partial duplication of the Daily Report, except that the Summary would contain the contents of the "X" wire.

12. The wire service furnished the State Department Press Room 127 by the FBIB is unnecessary.

IV. Recommendation:

13. The attached memorandum be sent to the Advisor for Management, ICAPS advising that:

a. "The Daily Summary of Significant Broadcasts", in its present form or in an expanded form, cannot replace the "A" and "X" wire services.

b. The wire service furnished Room 127, Main State Building, Press Room, should be discontinued.

*Handwritten note on right margin: This is a copy of the report that the Summary is a daily summary of significant broadcasts.*

*Handwritten initials: TMB*

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**CONFIDENTIAL**OFFICES RECEIVING THE FOREIGN BROADCAST  
INTELLIGENCE BRANCH "A" and "X" WIRE SERVICES

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<u>STATION</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TYPE OF WIRE</u>
1	CIG (ORE)		"A" and "X"
3	Navy Intelligence	Room 3726 Navy Bldg.	"A" and "X"
12	Federal Reserve	Room 3239 Fed. Res. Bldg.	"A" and "X"
16	State Dept. Intelligence	401 23rd Street, N.W.	"A" and "X"
20	War Dept. Intelligence	2E789 Pentagon	"A" and "X"
13	OIC State Department	Room 262 War Manpower Building	"A"
Inoperative	Press Room State	Room 127 Main State	Inoperative

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**CONFIDENTIAL**SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWS  
ON  
SUBSTITUTION OF FBIB DAILY SUMMARY FOR "X" AND "A" WIRE1. War Department (ID, WDGS)

Executive Officer, Plans and Collection Branch, ID, WDGS: The wire services are valuable and as far as this branch is concerned, we would like to see the wire services continued. The Daily Summary cannot give the same timeliness as the wire services.

British Empire Branch, ID, WDGS: The "A" and "X" wire services are extremely useful and should be retained. The CIG "Daily Summary" is not a satisfactory substitute for the "A" and "X" wire. The "A" wire service is useful for immediate information not yet published in the press. The "X" wire service is in constant use and of great value to the Branch since it is the only source of immediate information of important events abroad announced over foreign radio service, and frequently gives a lead on classified information never published by the press. The Daily Summary is not satisfactory, however, as a substitute for the "A" and "X" wire service since it does not contain the most important asset of radio and wire reports, i.e., their timeliness.

West European Branch, ID, WDGS: The "X" wire service can be eliminated without impairing the efficiency of this branch. The "A" wire service cannot be satisfactorily replaced by the FBIB Daily Reports.

Pan American Branch, ID, WDGS: If in its expanded form, the Summary carried all the information now carried by the "A" and "X" wire service, it would not seriously handicap the branch to receive it 24 to 48 hours later.

Operations Room, ID, WDGS: It is needed and it is very valuable. Need it for some G-2 sections. Use the wire services to brief Intelligence Officers on current intelligence. The Daily Summary would not serve in the same way.

2. Navy Department (ONI): The wire services are useful but not vital. Most of the reports now received over the wire services would eventually come in some other form. All the geographical desks use it and they are four in number. The Chief, Foreign Branch stated that he had made a survey on this subject a few months ago and his sections found the wire material useful. The Branch could do without it but it is probably worth \$5,000 per year. The Daily Summary does not serve the same purpose as the wire services.

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3. Federal Reserve System: The Chief, International Information Center stated that the wire services are extremely useful to her section. The ticker material makes it easy to cut, sort and file the material and to route it around to the interested persons. If the machine were eliminated, they would have to spend a great deal more time to cut the necessary information from the Daily Reports. At present, the material received over the machine is cut into geographical sections and also into subject matter and immediately routed. The wire services also furnish, in a convenient form, items which cannot be found in other media.

Official in Charge of Country People: stated that the service is extremely valuable and they like the service very much. Their economists use the material very frequently and then send it back for filing.

Both individuals thought, however, that if the Daily Summary were broken down into geographical locations and subject matter, the Daily Summary in an expanded form might replace the wire service.

4. State Department (Intelligence)

Chief, Biographic Information Division: stated that the wire service gives "name information" in which his division is interested and which would, undoubtedly be cut out of any Daily Summary as being extraneous material. In addition, the wire service gives "flash" information on various "changes of position" which is of great value if received by him as soon as possible so that he may prepare the necessary biographic data pertaining to this position and submit it to his superiors. Consequently, he believed the service is timely and valuable and these characteristics make it impossible for the service to be replaced by the Daily Summary.

Chief, Division of Research for the Near East: the wire service is not required and is not essential to his particular operations. He did notice, however, that there were some items on the wires which did not appear in the Daily Summary or the Daily Reports. An expanded Daily Summary to include these items would serve his purpose.

Section Chief, Russian Branch: stated that he is one of the principal users of the wire services. He mentioned that certain items appear on the wires which, of course, do not appear in the Daily Summary. If these items could be included in the Daily Summary and the Daily Summary expedited, he believed that the Daily Summary could replace the wire services.

Chief Editor: was indifferent on the whole subject. He used the wire service but believed the Daily Summary could replace the wire service if the Daily Summary went back to its old form. He requested that no change be made in the wire service until the Daily Summary could take care of the present users of the ticker material.

Chief, Message Center, I&A: material from the wire service is delivered to the users at periodical intervals of about 1½ hours.

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**CONFIDENTIAL**5. State Department (OIG)

One of the two principal users of the material in OIG stated that he was so short of personnel that the ticker material would lie around for days before he could get at it. In view of the shortage of personnel in this section, he could not advance any argument for the retention of the wire services.

The Assistant to the Chief, Far East Division, the other principal user of the material in OIG stated that the wire material goes to three areas in her division: Southeastern Asia, China and the Philippines. She thought the wire service was useful and they used it in their geographic areas. She thought that the Daily Summary in an expanded form to include the broadcast material might be satisfactory.

6. State Department (Press Department)

Press Editor, State Department: stated that they had not missed their machine, which has been inoperative for about two months. He has little time for it and if one of his superiors called for material, the FBIB Special Services Section gave him wonderful service in furnishing it. He did not think that they needed it.

7. OIG (ORE)

In a conference among Chief, FE, Assistant to Chief, FE and another member of FE statements were made that the wire services were necessary and worth it even though only one important item in the wire service was used per year. Also mentioned was the fact that the wire services contained information not found in the Daily Reports. The Daily Summary could not replace the wire service but perhaps a Washington City News Ticker could do the job if FBIB furnished a "flash" service on important items that they might pick up.

Chief, EE Section: stated that the wire services were a convenience but were not indispensable. Certain statistical items appear in the ticker material which are not found in any FBIB reports. Daily Summary in an expanded form might take the place of the wire service.

Chief, NE: considers the service indispensable and prefers the wire service to the Daily Summary. Would rather see the Daily Summary done away with than to cut out the wire services. When you have a deadline to meet, it is necessary to get the information as soon as possible. He also mentioned that the ticker material was much easier to handle as far as clipping and routing was concerned.

The section chiefs in this branch were of different opinions according to the Executive of the Branch. They would like, however, to see the wire service continued and they like the easy way of handling it.

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Chief, WE: thought the wire service was very valuable and probably worth the cost to CIG. Performs a different function than the Daily Summary.

Chief, NE: Was of the opinion that the wire service is a useful convenience but probably could be dispensed with if we had some sort of "flash" service from the FBIB in those cases where there is an important news break, in addition to the Daily Summary. They are not getting enough [redacted] in the Daily Summary for his purposes.

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POLL OF RESPONSES ON USEFULNESS OF  
"A" AND "X" WIRE CONSIDERING THEIR COST

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	<u>VALUABLE and USEFUL</u>	<u>SOME VALUE</u>	<u>DO NOT NEED or CANNOT USE</u>
<u>War Department</u>			
Executive Officer, Plans and Collection Branch, ID, WDGS	X		
British Empire Branch, ID, WDGS	X*		
West European Branch, ID, WDGS	X ("A"Wire)		X ("X" WIRE)
Pan American Branch, ID, WDGS			X
Operations Room, ID, WDGS	X		
<u>Navy Department (ONI)</u>			
		X	
<u>Federal Reserve System</u>			
International Information Center	X		
Country Peoples Section	X		
<u>State Department (Intelligence)</u>			
Biographic Information Division	X		
Research Division, Near East			X
Section Chief, Russian Branch		X	
Chief Editor		X	
<u>State Department (CIC)</u>			
Policy Ch, Area Division Europe			X
Assistant to Chief, Far East Division	X		
<u>State Department Press Room</u>			
			X
<u>Central Intelligence (ORR)</u>			
Far East	X		
Eastern European		X	
Near East	X*		
Western European	X		
Northern Branch		X	
TOTALS	11	5	5

\*Extremely valuable or indispensable

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24 April 1947

Estimated Annual Savings  
by Elimination of "A" Wire Service

Personnel

1 Editor	CAF-12	\$5,900
4 Editors	CAF-9	16,600
1 Teletypist	CAF-6	3,000
2 Teletypists	CAF-4	5,300

\$30,800

Communications

3,600

Supplies and Materials

1,000

Total

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\$35,400

Cost per subscriber

\$ 5,057

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DISPOSITION FORM

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M	TO	DATE	FROM	TO	DATE
		1-9-47	DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE		
			DEPUTY DIRECTOR, C.I.G.		
			ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR		
			SECRETARY, N.I.A.		
		5-12	Acting Chief, FBIB		
			CHIEF OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES		
X			Assistant Director for Collection and Dissemination, Attn: [redacted]		
			CHIEF, CENTRAL PLANNING STAFF		
			Policy & Review Branch		
			Information Branch		
			Intelligence Branch		
			Security Branch		
			Support Branch		
				CHIEF, CENTRAL REPORTS STAFF	
				W. Europe-Africa Branch	
				E. Europe-USSR Branch	
				Middle East-India Branch	
				Far East-Pacific Branch	
				Western Hemisphere Branch	
				ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	
				Personnel Branch	
				Budget & Fiscal Branch	
				Administrative Services Branch	
				Central Records	
				Security Branch	

REFERENCES:

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ENCLOSURES:

- ACTION  DIRECT REPLY
- RECOMMENDATION  COMMENT
- SIGNATURE  FILE
- INFORMATION  NOTE
- RETURN  MAIL
- PREPARATION OF REPLY

MARKS:

In compliance with your request to furnish you with an estimate of the annual cost of expanding the daily mimeographed summary to supplant the "A" Wire of FBIB, it is estimated that this service would cost approximately \$28,400 per year. I wish to point out, however, that in my opinion this would be an absolute waste of money, since practically all of the material included in the "A" Wire is already being published in our Daily Reports.

/S/ L. K. WHITE  
Acting Chief, FBIB

OO/FB

(Continue "Remarks" on back, if necessary)

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

9 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Monitoring of News Dispatches

1. To settle this question, I recommend that the responsibility be placed upon ICAPS to seek a solution through a conference, which shall explore:

a. Ability and willingness of member agencies to acquire and transmit rapidly to Washington the "local services" discussed in paragraph 1 of the recommendations.

b. If a. is found to be impractical, the advisability of FBIB continuing to monitor and make confidential distribution to member intelligence agencies in spite of AP's disapproval.

2. Suggested representation for such a conference:

a. The three departmental member agencies' intelligence service

b. From CIG: ICAPS, OO, OCD, and ORE.



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EDWIN L. SIBERT  
Brigadier General, USA  
Assistant Director for Operations

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