

OPT-11-57
STAT



ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau

FROM: Chief, Operations Group	EXTENSION 	NO. DATE August 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/Ops		2/5/88	[Signature]	
2.				
3. C/E&PS		9/23	[Signature]	
4. DD/FBIS		26 Sep	B	
5. D/FBIS			R	
6.				
7. PO/RA		9/26	AM	
8. SA/CD		9/27	[Signature]	
9. C/PERS			[Signature]	
10. C/AS			[Signature]	
11. C/B&F/AS			[Signature]	
12. C/DO		10/13	[Signature]	
13.				
14. C/AG		14/10	[Signature]	[Signature]
15. Exec. Reg.				

7



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



6 September 1988
FBIS-5616-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau -- August 1988

I. GENERAL

With the arrival of the Olympic flame on Cheju Island on 27 August, balloons, banners and flowers have replaced the pall of tear gas frequently in evidence in Seoul this summer. Radical students have cut back on their activities and politicians are set to introduce a "political cease-fire," albeit an uneasy one. Although the month of August saw its share of student clashes with the police, the number of students involved was reportedly smaller and the attacks against U.S. installations were limited to a fire bomb attack on the USIS center in Kwangju and an attempt by a small group of demonstrators to approach the Embassy on the 15th. A van owned by a local employee was gutted in the first incident and the latter group was picked up by police as it attempted to cross the street. Unconfirmed reports said that there were as many reporters in the group as actual student demonstrators. Other reported threats to U.S. facilities failed to materialize.

Last-ditch attempts by the South to involve North Korea in the Olympics were fruitless as North-South preliminary parliamentary talks have been suspended until after the conclusion of the games. Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee President Pak Se-chik continues to insist that the "door will be open" for North Korea's participation until the last day.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. Once again student demonstrations provided a good deal of high precedence material from the Bureau's monitored Korean sources. The days leading up to the proposed North-South student talks in Panmunjom on 15 August were filled with clashes between riot police and students from across the country who had converged on Seoul. Monitors paid close attention to the independent Christian Broadcasting System Network, which provided unique and timely reports on many of the demonstrations.

-2-

2. At AG request, the Korean Unit heightened attention to North Korean media coverage of DPRK student activities designed as a counterpart to the student activities in the ROK. Pyongyang radio again provided several lengthy reports, which were quickly processed and filed, and several editorial reports were filed from Pyongyang television coverage as well.

3. In addition to the material on the student activities, 15 August saw ROK President No Tae-u, in his Liberation Day speech, offer to meet the DPRK's Kim Il-song to discuss the Korean situation. The speech, as well as the material on the student activities, was processed expeditiously by a monitorial staff on a reduced holiday schedule without recourse to overtime. Wire criticism of the handling of the fyi's on No Tae-u's speech prompted a review of procedures.

4. North and South Korea agreed to hold "preliminary" parliamentary talks on 19 August, resuming inter-Korean contacts after a hiatus of nearly 3 years. The talks were aimed at holding a larger inter-parliamentary meeting later on in Pyongyang. Reports from both DPRK and ROK media on the talks kept monitors and editors busy processing high-precedence material and apprising local consumers of the situation. Four rounds of talks and one confidential session between delegation heads yielded little evident progress on the Olympics, but both sides agreed to resume the discussions on 13 October.

B. Technical

1. The Bureau received the following equipment from Headquarters during the month: 1 each Victor computer monitor model DM-14 (s/n 4506007G; AFS s/n 0496), system unit model 2601-1 (s/n 611010297C, AFS 0917); 2 each converter EIA RS232/Mil STD 188/114A, model IC231B s/n 88075611, 88075618; cable 25 pin EIA data ECN25C-005 for converter; black box, serial/parallel converter model PI005b s/n 004309, 004373; cable for parallel printer EYN600-0006.

2. With the receipt of the two Victor computers from Headquarters, there are enough work stations in the Bureau Communications Unit to allow the return of one badly needed computer to the Chinese Unit.

3. The Bureau Chief and the Chief Technician were able to salvage 8 receiver racks in good condition from the remote antenna site. The racks will be reconditioned and repainted after which five will replace those now at the Pyongtaek remote site and three will be used at the Bureau itself.

4. Repair and preventive maintenance on a receiver at Pyongtaek and the microwave link has improved reception of Changchun Jilin Provincial Service, one of the PRC regionals covered by the Bureau.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. [redacted] entered on duty on 16 August, bringing the Korean unit up to full T/O. STAT

2. Korean monitor [redacted] will be on maternity leave until October. She gave birth to a baby girl on 8 August. STAT

3. [redacted] was promoted to FBN-11, filling the position of Korean unit chief which he had been exercising in an acting capacity since the retirement of [redacted] STAT
STAT

B. Buildings and Grounds

Contractual authority was received during the month to install a new electricity line to the Bureau. Work should be completed in September 1988. The new line is needed because the transformer serving the Chancery, including FBIS up to now, cannot support any further new demands such as the Bureau modernization project next year. A second transformer has been upgraded for the Embassy, and it is planned to put the whole of the Bureau on this second transformer. Discussion was continuing at month's end among the Bureau, Embassy General Services engineers, and the contractor about rewiring the Bureau for modernization and for concurrently putting in the additional outlets needed to correct the serious deficiency in such outlets noted by the Lockheed preliminary survey team several months ago.

IV. VISITS

1. Okinawa Bureau associate editor [redacted] visited the Bureau on 16 August on TDY for familiarization. STAT

2. DAILY REPORT Korea editor [redacted] visited the Bureau on 10 August on TDY for familiarization. STAT

[redacted]

Chief, Seoul Bureau

STAT

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau