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**Foreign Broadcast
Information Service**

NEWSLETTER

Edition 85-3

1 May 1985

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NOTICE

Field Bureaus are reminded that copies of this Newsletter should be destroyed after reading by U.S. Staff employees. This Newsletter is not to be retained in field bureaus.

NEWSLETTER

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'FIVE CITIES' TV PROJECT

FBIS initiated the "Five Cities" foreign television reporting project on 19 March when the first tapes were sent to headquarters from the bureaus. The project is targeted at major world capitals designated by the DDI, with FBIS taping major television newscasts and special events each day for transmission to headquarters by commercial courier service. The process has been working well with tapes being received in times varying from 30 to 48 hours, with OCR making them available to DI analysts.

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SOVIET SUCCESSION

FBIS coverage of the death and succession of Soviet leaders was handled in what has now become almost habitual fashion. Abnormal Soviet media behavior normally identified with the death of a Soviet leader was first noted by the bureaus on 10 March when Moscow radio replaced regular programming with somber classical music. For 12 hours classical music dominated Moscow programming. The Wire sent regular comprehensive media reports to its consumers, many of whom requested phone alerts to new Soviet media behavior. The first CRITIC was issued at 0848 GMT on the 11th when Paris AFP quoted an "unimpeachable source" as stating that the CPSU Central Committee had announced Chernenko's death. The next CRITIC was issued following the official 1100 GMT Moscow announcement of Chernenko's death. FBIS later learned that President Reagan was informed of the official announcement of the death from an FBIS report.

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A 5-minute videotape of the Chernenko lying-in-state ceremony was relayed to Washington by London Bureau via satellite on 11 March to provide consumers with the first public appearance of the Soviet leadership line-up following Gorbachev's election as the new CPSU general secretary. The satellite feed was relayed to Pyramid Video at the National Press Club building by Visnews/Brightstar 4 hours after the clip was carried by Moscow television. Copies were made and delivered within an hour of receipt to AG, SOVA, and OCR.

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AG produced a political profile of Gorbachev based on an examination of his public statements over the past 15 years. The report was disseminated on the night of 11 March to Wire and overseas recipients, including Vice President Bush's party, and was used by PDB briefers the following morning.

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ANTWERP PRESS UNIT

The press monitoring unit in Antwerp officially opened for operations on 1 April. The chief is currently involved in recruiting contract translators and establishing routines. The unit, which is located in the consulate, will concentrate on scientific and technical collection, and reports to the Chief, Production Group.

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OTHER SUPPORT TO HIGH LEVEL CONSUMERS

WHITE HOUSE On 14 April the White House Situation Room relayed to the Wire a request from Vice Admiral John Poindexter, deputy assistant to the President traveling aboard "Air Force One," for the text of a PRAVDA commentary that day on President Reagan's planned visit to the FRG cemetery at Bitburg for German soldiers killed in World War II. London Bureau processed the commentary in time for it to be available to the Situation Room before the President's plane touched down at Andrews. Another White House Situation Room request during that week, on behalf of the executive secretary of the NSC, asked FBIS to provide the text of a 12 April BBC television report which cited an alleged secret NSC paper entitled "A Strategy for Central America" and a document on last year's "Big Pine III" exercises in Honduras. []

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USIA The Director, FBIS visited USIA on 19 March and at Director Wick's invitation participated in a USIA staff meeting. Director Wick was interested in Soviet media expansion and activities in terms of helping to make the case for better Congressional funding of USIA activities. D/FBIS also briefed Director Wick and his staff on aspects of the FBIS Modernization Program and how this program will benefit USIA. Since then, USIA has requested support from FBIS in several areas, including information on satellite TV monitoring and subscriptions to publications. []

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BBC NEWS

[] who became head of the BBC Monitoring Service in 1980, is being moved to the position of Comptroller, the number three position in the BBC External Service. [] was named interim general manager. (U)

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Abidjan Bureau editors monitoring the Nigerian news agency NAN have long noted that service messages between NAN field officers and NAN headquarters generally lack the decorum of exchanges between FBIS field bureaus and Headquarters. However, one frustrated NAN field office appeared to set a new mark for candor with the following message to NAN headquarters: "Lagos: What is wrong with you people up there? You are all crazy." []

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NEWS FROM THE BUREAUS

NICOSIA, JORDAN BUREAU RELOCATIONS

The Archbishop of Cyprus has approved the draft lease on Nicosia Bureau's new site; the lease will be signed once clear title to the land is obtained and registered. The site, a four-acre plot of land on the western fringe of Nicosia, near the old airport, will be leased for 99 years. Meanwhile, plans for the new bureau supplied by headquarters have been passed to local architects/engineers, who are to supply initial cost figures.

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A State Department site selection team visited Amman in March and, jointly with the Embassy, narrowed a list of potential sites for the relocation of the Embassy, which includes Jordan Bureau. The leading candidate is a tract in Abdun, in the southeast section of Amman. Initial checks in Abdun indicate that the new site may result in improved reception generally.

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BANGKOK ROSET

FBIS efforts to obtain the approval of the Thai Government for installation of a satellite monitoring (ROSET) antenna in Thailand have achieved a breakthrough. The Ministry of Communications has sent a letter to the Department of Aviation (which controls the Bang Ping antenna field) approving the ROSET facility. There will be an amendment to the FBIS-Thai agreement of 1971, which provided for FBIS sharing the Bang Ping field with the Aviation Department, to provide for the satellite monitoring. An engineering team is visiting Bangkok to prepare for installation of the ROSET.

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PANAMA SATELLITE MONITORING

Panama Bureau continues to utilize its new ROSET installation to improve FBIS capabilities against television broadcasts in Latin America. A survey of Colombian television was completed in mid-April and selected newscasts of Colombian, Mexican and Venezuelan television are now being monitored regularly. An earlier success was coverage of Venezuelan President Lusinchi's live address to the National Congress. This was the first scheduled major event to be covered by the bureau from regular satellite television transmission and filled a coverage gap, as normal radio reception in Panama from Venezuela is very spotty.

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ABIDJAN STAFFING INCREASE

The ambassador in Abidjan on 22 February formally approved increasing the bureau T/O by one editorial position and two foreign national positions. The additional staffing will enable the bureau to expand its weekend operations.

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AFRICAN BUREAU CHIEFS MEETING

The Abidjan and Swaziland bureau chiefs participated in Nairobi with BBC Monitoring Service General Manager and the BBC East African Unit chief in a 26-27 February discussion of African regional coverage. The exchanges provided a good opportunity to become familiar with the unique operations at each location and to examine coverage overlaps and gaps.

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PRODUCTION GROUP NEWS

AUTOMATION DEVELOPMENTS

The JPRS automation project, started in the USSR Section, has now been expanded to the ELAA and NEA sections. Numerous ICs from all three sections are now submitting their copy on diskettes.

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Five OSWR analysts have received passwords and the user manual for the CTS ACTS system. They will now be able to access the ACTS system directly to check for translated articles and publications. This is the beginning of the planned expansion of access to ACTS for Agency analysts.

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In February samples of UD materials awaiting translation by JPRS were sent to the DO to be run experimentally on their machine translation system. It is hoped that the system might be used to help alleviate the current JPRS backlog of Russian technical book translations.

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SPECIAL SERVICES

Production Group received approximately 8,000 pages of unclassified Italian documents on the results of the investigation of the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II. In cooperation with other Agency components, officers will scan this material and approximately 13,000 additional pages not yet received to determine portions of intelligence value which require full translations. The translations will be done by JPRS contract personnel.

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On 22 March FLASC handled a priority translation of a Guatemalan intelligence report on drugs and arms trafficking which had been sent to Senator Orrin Hatch from Guatemalan Chief of State General Oscar Mejia-Victores. The Senate Committee on Intelligence had requested the translation.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

JPRS began in March a new WORLDWIDE REPORT: ARMS CONTROL. It contains Soviet, European, and other foreign media reporting and commentary on arms control issues, negotiations, agreements, and treaties. To date consumers have requested some 250 copies of each issue.

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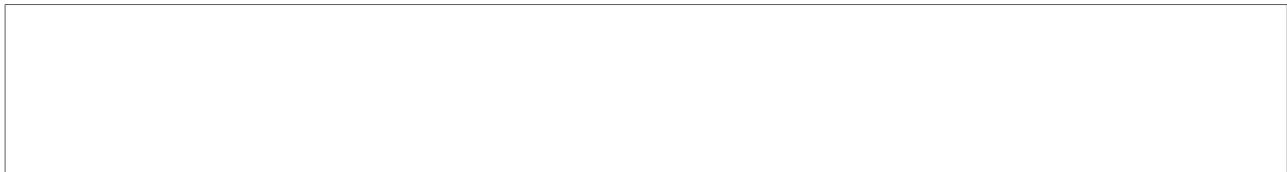
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NEAD prepared two major publications during February: a JIANGXI AGRICULTURAL GEOGRAPHY, the latest in a series of selected material from Chinese provincial agricultural geographies; and a full translation of a May 1983 directory of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

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ANALYSIS GROUP ACTIVITIES

An AG analysis of a broadcast Khomeyni speech on 21 March attracted considerable attention and was apparently the basis of a statement by Secretary Shultz to the Boston Globe. The analysis noted that Khomeyni was apparently attempting to prepare the Iranian nation to understand that victory over Iraq may not be possible.

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The U.S. Embassy in Damascus cabled a commendation to FBIS for AG's analysis of Iranian support for the Muslims of Lebanon and asked authorization, which was granted, to pass the analysis to the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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At the request of the U.S. Embassy in Amman, AG provided an analysis of the evolution in content of the public statements by senior PLO officials, both Arafat followers and opponents, on the 11 February Jordan-PLO accord.

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The Embassy in Cairo has asked AG for a new study of Egyptian press treatment of Israel, updating an in-depth research paper on the subject prepared for the Embassy last year. The current request was prompted by the lodging of a formal Israeli complaint to the Egyptians alleging a recent increase in anti-Israel material in the Cairo press--a perennial sore point with the Israelis.

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For the Senate Armed Services Committee, AG developed from its media files a list of all Soviet proposals for moratoriums made public in the media during the past two years. All of the proposals were in the arms control area.

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Herb Levin, Staff Director of the House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, asked AG for a memo on usual itineraries for distinguished visitors to North Korea. The research was done for Congressman Solarz, who has been invited by the DPRK to visit.

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Mr. George C. Carey, Jr., a retired deputy director of the Agency, died recently in Glyndon, Maryland, at age 85. Mr. Carey was director of the Office of Operations, which among others included FBID (FBIS) and FDD (Foreign Documents Division), now the FBIS Production Group. He was instrumental during the 1950's in expanding FBIS operations around the world, including Indochina.

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