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TO:

BUILDING

ROOM NO.

REMARKS:

Although there is no question that BBC is not giving Kyrenia the consideration it deserves, which surely can be remedied to some extent, this trouble can never be cleared up entirely unless we make a clearcut division of effort by country and service. I have been saying this for 3 years, altho not making a strong issue of it. If BBC cannot sacrifice coverage of things it cannot guarantee year-round results on, then duplication should be at their expense, not ours

FROM:

NFK

BUILDING

ROOM NO.

EXTENSION

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Post Office Box No. 1

Kyrenia, Cyprus

20 February 1952

STAT

Chief, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Alan:

Although the coordination of coverage between Kyrenia and Caversham is apparently working out to the satisfaction of the BBC, BBC's method of handling the project tends to make planned and systematic coverage at Kyrenia difficult. During the past few months, the Kyrenia schedule has several times been rearranged and duplication practically eliminated. However, it has been our experience that no sooner is the schedule rearranged to fit the coordination scheme than we are presented with further requests to drop programs or alter schedules. The result is an almost constant state of confusion here.

On occasions the BBC has been overzealous in undertaking coverage. In the case of certain Athens, Free Greece, and Cairo programs which the BBC asked us to discontinue, subsequently unreliable reception forced us to resume coverage. The inconvenience here could have been avoided had the BBC been more certain of its ability to cover these programs before asking us to transfer coverage to them.

In some instances, the BBC has added staff or in other ways placed itself in a position to undertake coverage which has been a long standing Kyrenia responsibility, and then has taken on programs and requested that we drop them. This some times leaves Kyrenia with only marginal material to substitute for the dropped programs. An example is Bucharest coverage, which we were providing adequately and the BBC was unable to assume last summer when the proposal for transfer to Caversham was first made, and which the BBC has now undertaken. Our two trained and capable Rumanian monitors are left with marginal material in Rumanian and Moldavian, and a few English programs. The effect upon morale, when monitors who have been providing valuable and consistent coverage of long standing are called upon to substitute minor unimportant material, is quite detrimental.

The impression prevails among Kyrenia editors that FBIS Washington is not always getting as much worthwhile material from productive programs after they have been transferred to Caversham as when they were covered at Kyrenia. Daily Reports have shown instances in which press versions from BTA, ATA, and Agerpress have been used, when additional material in voice programs for home consumption which was more revealing of shortcomings, has not been used. Had the voice programs continued to be covered at Kyrenia, such material would have been filed to Washington. This is partly up to FBIS, but it is also a BBC matter in that the BBC monitoring

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technique does not allow in practice the same amount of editorial control as does the FBIS method.

New short wave transmitters in Sofia and Athens have enabled the BBC to add programs which they formerly could not hear and which were previously definite Kyrenia commitments. The assumption of such coverage at Caversham is undoubtedly reasonable in view of their need for spot news service; however, it is questionable whether Kyrenia should automatically drop its commitments from these places unless there is equally good material available from other sources which can be substituted. If not, I believe we should be justified in continuing to provide coverage, particularly in Satellite countries and other critical areas where mutual backstopping ability is desirable to provide coverage in emergencies.

Kyrenia has endeavored to the best of its ability to carry out the basic coverage allocation principle as expressed in the minutes of the Fifth BBC-FBIS Coordination Committee Meeting. However, the BBC is still in a position to encroach upon long standing Kyrenia commitments and to direct a constant requests for deletions, adjustments, etc., toward Kyrenia. Most of these are relayed through [] and I have asked him to request the BBC to reduce the number of such requests, except in emergencies, to those which can reasonably be expected to stand for some time, and to restrict them to programs which the BBC can reasonably expect to cover adequately and permanently. The point is being reached where split responsibility for given stations is introducing duplicate filing in itself. In requesting us to delete coverage, I believe too that the BBC should consider our own monitor situation, and not expect us to pull the props from under our trained monitors unless productive substitutions can be made for the coverage assumed by the BBC. STAT

Sincerely,

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