


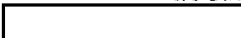
9 July 1975

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Your letter to Mr. Colby concerning the rate schedule for the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) contractor translators has been referred to me for reply.

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In looking into the questions you raise, I feel that   letter of 20 March 1975 responds fully to your queries on the establishment of JPRS rates and the guidelines for granting rate increases. He has also provided you a copy of the rate schedule.

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JPRS strives to obtain the best possible translations at rates of payment which give fair value to the translator and the taxpayer alike. Contracts between JPRS and the translator are openly and freely entered into by both parties. Payment is made in accordance with a variable scale which establishes rates for the number of words translated and which also makes allowance for special knowledge and skills. As the Chief, JPRS has explained to you, once a translator has demonstrated his professionalism in presentation and his ability to respond quickly and reliably, he is paid commensurately. Earnings are thus related to the talents and industry of the individual contractor, as well as to the supply of work submitted to JPRS for translation.

The breakdown of JPRS rates presented by the Guild of Professional Translators is not a representative guide to JPRS payments because it is based only on the rates of the translators



who authorized the release of their contracts to the Guild. The majority of JPRS contractors did not authorize release and among them are a number of Slavic-language translators whose rates exceed \$16.00 per 1000 words.

I do not share your view that JPRS is "taking advantage" of its translators. Nor is this view apparently shared by the many highly skilled and professional translators who have worked for JPRS for as long as 15 years. As you know, contracts with JPRS do not preclude translators from accepting work from translation services which may offer more favorable rates. Also translators are free to terminate their contracts by giving a 15-day written notice should they be dissatisfied with their arrangements with JPRS.

Please be assured that we will continue our efforts to establish fair and reasonable rates for our contract translators.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Paul V. Walsh
Associate Deputy Director
for Intelligence

ILLEGIB

Distribution:

- Original - Addressee
- ① - DDI File
- 1 - ADDI Chrono
- 1 - Director/FBIS
- 1 - Prod Group
- 1 - C/JPRS

FBIS/Prod Gp: [Redacted] 10 Jun 75
Rewritten: ADDI/PVWalsh/tb (9 July 75)

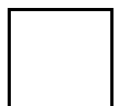
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Response - 10 June

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/FBIS

Don--

Will you please have someone draft a response for Paul Walsh's signature. May we have the draft by about 10 June?

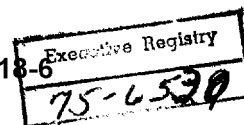


2 June 75
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

STAT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

22 May 1975

Mr William E. Colby, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr Colby:

I am writing about the contract rate schedule for the Joint Publications Research Service contractors. This problem apparently cannot be resolved at the JPRS Chief level. Accordingly, I would appreciate if you can look into the matter.

Enclosed is a JPRS SCHEDULE OF RATES of July 1974 and a summary of 137 contract rates recently released by JPRS to the Guild of Professional Translators. From these documents it is apparent that although a rate of \$25 per 1000 words is authorized by the CIA for Slavic languages \$16 per 1000 words is the highest rate JPRS admits paying. The Guild of Professional Translators recommends a minimum rate of \$30 per 1000 words. AD-EX Translations International (3220 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, Ca 94025) pays \$25 per 1000 words quite routinely. [redacted] JPRS Chief, does not appear to have any identifiable method by which he sets rates. It seems that he gets away with what he can.

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I believe that you can convince yourself that at these low rates JPRS is taking advantage of its translators. These rates are pathetically low and have the tendency of making a translator hurry through the job and cut every corner possible. I wonder if you really believe that such a situation is advantageous to your agency. Moreover, the JPRS editors who have no technical background frequently attempt to "correct" perfectly proper engineering terminology and thereby introduce serious errors in the translator's work. I have capability to translate highly technical material but I very seldom get anything that is even related to technical literature in the professional and scientific sense.

This undesirable and short sighted policy has now resulted in an inquiry from the Guild of Professional Translators and attendant sensational publicity. It may well be that the writers of the newspaper article (The Sunday Bulletin, 27 April 1975) would be arguing that the government does not pay attention to foreign press and publications if the CIA

Mr William E. Colby, Director
Central Intelligence Agency

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did not have a continued effort for translating published information which is available abroad to everyone. In any case I cannot see why would someone object to keeping the government informed of what is going on elsewhere in the world or why should such an activity be kept secret -- in fact it is not since NTIS publications can be purchased by anyone and appropriate conclusions drawn from the areas that are emphasized.

It appears that your agency is well funded and that it has in fact budgeted rates up to \$25 per 1000 words. I doubt that once you had surveyed the prevailing rates for like work in commercial operations and, indeed, in other operations of the government you would still want to insist on the pathetically low rates paid by the JPRS. I urge you to have this matter looked into and resolved in an equitable manner.

Very truly yours,



P.S.: We also offer translations from Slovenian and Serbo-Croatian in the high-technology fields and evaluation of technical projects by direct arrangement in case that you have a requirement in this area.

July 1974

JPRS SCHEDULE OF RATES

1. Effective upon receipt, the JPRS Schedule of Rates dated March 1971 is rescinded and the following services and rates shall apply to new and amended contracts.

2. These services and rates are intended for independent contracts. The precise terminology employed here for services, and only these services, shall be used in contracts. Additional services that you feel should be a part of this schedule must be approved by the Chairman, JPRC.

3. As regards translation, unless absolutely necessary, do not contract for "general," "technical" and "scientific." Contract at one rate only for all services.

4. The minimum rates are merely suggested; the maximum rates, however, shall not be exceeded. Exceptions to the maximum rates listed here must be approved in advance by the Chairman, JPRC.

I. LANGUAGE SERVICES

A. Translation (per 1,000 original-language words, into English or into any of the languages listed below):

(Enter name(s) of languages, not "Romance," "Slavic," etc.)

Romance: \$11.00 to \$20.00 Germanic: \$11.00 to \$20.00

French
Italian
Portuguese
Romanian
Spanish

Danish
Dutch
German
Norwegian
Swedish

Slavic: \$11.00 to \$25.00

Belorussian
Bulgarian
Czech
Polish

Russian
Serbo-Croatian
Slovak
Slovenian

Ukrainian

For languages not listed above: \$11.00 to \$30.00

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MEMORANDUM FOR: ~~PVM~~ (info BP/HR)

Suggest sending to FBIS for a draft response.
I assume the answer should be signed by you or
EWP, rather than FBIS or JPRS.

*OK
for
my
signature*



29 May 1975
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

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1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	S/MC				
4	DDS&T				
5	DDI	✓			
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
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9	D/DCI/NIO				
10	GC				
11	LC				
12	IG				
13	Compt				
14	D/Pers				
15	D/S				
16	DTR				
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SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks:

*For direct reply, please,
with info copy to this
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D/Executive Secretary

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