

S-E-C-R-E-T

20 December 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs  
FROM: Chief, FBIS  
SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. a. [redacted] arrived in Kaduna, Nigeria, site of the new station, from Lagos on 4 November 1960. Mr. Richard Morse, FBO, Department of State, is assisting in arrangement for construction of the station.

50X1

The group has made considerable progress in resolving logistics and administrative problems. By the end of the month a letter of intent was signed with an architectural and engineering firm, covering the A&E functions attendant with the construction of the new station.

b. Materials for the establishment of one monitoring position were air shipped to Kaduna to arrive by 20 December 1960. The equipment will be used in an attempt to monitor Radio Garoua in The Camerouns to meet a request by the Premier, Northern Region.

50X1

2. In connection with Editorial Branch proposals for certain changes in Daily Report format, the Liaison and Requirements Staff began a consumer survey to determine how the changes might affect publication and distribution patterns. A survey form attached to each copy of the Middle East & West Europe Daily Report for 17 November explained the proposed redivision of materials into a Middle East & Africa and a West Europe and Latin America report, and asked recipient offices how many copies of each of the new books would be required. Returns are being studied, and it has not yet been decided whether the redivision will be made. [redacted]

50X1

3. The issuance of Agency publications is governed by Agency regulation, and controlled by a Publications Board which reviews all proposals for initiation, discontinuance, or change in publications. The general policy is to hold the number of separate publications to a minimum. Local field distribution of teletype or mimeograph copy does not constitute publication, so long as the issuance is not formalized through such devices as pre-printed covers, and so long as there is no Headquarters dissemination. Bureaus are not authorized to initiate formal publications for local or Headquarters dissemination without Headquarters approval, however.

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4. A World Reaction Report entitled "Foreign Radio and Press Reaction to the U.S. Presidential Election" was compiled from field roundups and published 14 November. At the request of the DD/I, the report was updated by the inclusion of a page of late reaction compiled on the date of publication. [redacted]

50X1

5. The Standing Committee of the USIB discussed the problem of priority of DF requirements referred to it by the Board, but has not reached a decision. The problem remains in suspense. [redacted]

50X1

6. Of 224 items included in OCI's Current Intelligence Digest during November, 60 (22.2 percent) were based wholly or in part on FBIS monitoring. [redacted]

50X1

7. [redacted] were briefed by Chief, FBIS, on FBIS activities on 17 November, as part of a general Agency orientation. Analyst [redacted] of Radio Propaganda Branch gave [redacted] an informative presentation of RPB views on the Soviet leadership situation, and they were conducted on a tour of the FBIS monitoring station at [redacted]

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PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS COMMENT [redacted]

50X1

1. Radio Propaganda Reports issued (Responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. "Theory of Revolutions Assumes New Prominence in Sino-Soviet Dispute" [redacted]

50X1

b. "Albania Reaffirms Vigorous Support for CPR in Sino-Soviet Dispute" [redacted]

50X1

c. "Soviet Views on Problems of Outer-Space Law: Stress on 'Illegality' of Photo-Reconnaissance," requested by the Legal Adviser, Department of State [redacted]

50X1

2. Propaganda analysis items on the FBIS Wire (Responsible analyst indicated in Parentheses):

a. "TASS Denies U.S. Reports of Soviet Underground Nuclear Test" [redacted]

50X1

b. "Designation of Marshal Grechko as Acting USSR Minister of Defense in Malinovskiy's Absence" [redacted]

50X1

3. A compilation of Soviet, Chinese Communist, and Satellite statements since the U-2 incident on the nature and consequences of war, Soviet and bloc strength, and Soviet retaliation against U.S. foreign bases was prepared for the Chief, Propaganda Group/CA, DD/P. Introductory remarks explained the current line and the degree to which it differs from the line used before the U-2 incident.

4. The following are among Radio Propaganda Reports projected or under consideration for publication within the next few months (responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

- a. Soviet Outer-Space Projects and Programming: August-November 1960, in the regular series for OSI/GMD [redacted] 50X1
- b. Replacement of Chief Editors of key Soviet journals [redacted] 50X1
- c. ~~Contrasting~~ Soviet and Chinese views on national liberation movements [redacted] 50X1
- d. Opposition in the Chinese Communist Party to the commune program, in response to a standing OCI requirement [redacted] 50X1
- e. Latin America in Soviet and Chinese Communist propaganda, with emphasis on treatment of Cuba [redacted] 50X1

5. All bureaus are reminded of the practice of flagging "copy to RPB" any items filed from nonbloc sources that deal significantly with bloc affairs. RPB receives in regular distribution only items from communist bloc sources, and must rely on flagging in the field to get items about the bloc from other transmitters. A good example of the kind of thing worth flagging was a DPA report of a speech by Soviet international-law expert Zadorozhniy at a Stuttgart international conference in November. On the basis of this brief London Bureau item, RPB requested a fuller West German newspaper account of the speech from the German Bureau and was able to use it in a special study of Soviet views on outer-space law. Available Soviet media still have not carried Zadorozhniy's remarks.

6. Both the Editorial and Radio Propaganda Branches have found that brief TASS summaries of PRAVDA Observer articles on international affairs are seldom adequate. In virtually all such cases, a subsequent fuller version from a voice broadcast should be filed both for DAILY REPORT and analysis purposes. For example: The PRAVDA Observer article of 3 November, constituting what was widely regarded as an unusually sharp attack on De Gaulle and his Algeria policy, was summarized in a brief TASS dispatch (filed) that made clear the importance of the article. A full text voice-cast the same day in the home service and Arabic was not filed until requested from Headquarters the following day, when the 3 November commentary lists made known its availability. Had the full text been filed promptly on the

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field's own initiative the day it was monitored, it could have appeared in Friday's DAILY REPORT. As it was, the request was sent out on Friday and a weekend intervened before the text could be published. It may be regarded as almost certain that any PRAVDA Observer article on an international subject will be desired as soon as possible in the fullest possible version.

7. An Austrian Bureau roundup, prepared at the Bureau's initiative, of satellite press comment on the Yugoslav and Albanian national holidays was used as the basis for an article in the SURVEY. A contribution from the German Bureau on GDR press treatment of the Yugoslav holiday was incorporated in the article.

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EDITORIAL BRANCH COMMENTGENERAL

1. During November 86 percent of the Daily Report pages were devoted to broadcast material and 14 percent to press scrutiny.

2. To satisfy an unusual demand, FBIS issued some 3,200 copies of a USSR/East Europe Daily Report Supplement containing the "Statement of the Moscow Conference of Communist and Workers Parties." USSR/East Europe supplements normally are issued in about 1,000 copies.

3. Editors should not hesitate to use the higher precedence indicators to insure the most expeditious movement of wire traffic when reporting critical information, even when the traffic will move directly into an allocated channel, as prescribed [redacted] The use of these indicators (a) insures prompt handling at the receiving end and (b) guarantees rapid movement in competition with other high-precedence traffic if the item must be shifted to a common user channel. These indicators are essential when the message must pass through a common user leg on the way to its destination. It should be remembered that during critical situations PRIORITY (PP) traffic tends to be backlogged against a flow of higher precedence material from all services using the STARCOM telecommunications net. STAT

4. A brief summary of radio and press reaction to the appointment of Dean Rusk as Secretary of State was prepared Dec. 14 for the DCI prior to a meeting with Mr. Rusk.

5. The text of the "Report on Five-Year Plan Fulfillment" made to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly was issued as a supplement to the Far East Daily Report Dec. 14.

6. Frequently important commentaries, filed from a poorly received initial broadcast, contain obscure, indistinct, and even incorrect passages which could be corrected--but often are not--from subsequent rebroadcasts. Even more unfortunate is the discarding of an important item because of poor reception when commentary lists and other sources reveal that it could have been texted from a later broadcast. All too often commentary lists note as unprocessed repeats items which have been discarded or filed in poor form because of bad initial reception. While checking and correcting all items filed from poor reception on the basis of subsequent broadcasts would place too heavy a burden on editors and monitors, the effort should be made in the case of unusually important items and items which are of little use without the clarification of essential segments.

7. Among other functions the Wire Services Section serves to alert consumers to early indications of movements against existing regimes. The field should bear this in mind when preparing copy for transmission to Headquarters. It should make certain that reports of disorders or other

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antigovernmental activity are not buried in a compilation of briefs which can be inadvertently overlooked by the Headquarters wire editor. Such items, especially reports of domestic disorders, merit individual filing as FYI's, or in textual or excerpt form, so they can be handled promptly on the Wire. Highly perishable, they are of little value if not filed and disseminated quickly. By no means should this instruction be interpreted as deprecating the importance of briefing non-urgent material in groups readily processable for the Daily Report with a minimum use of space.

Recent examples of items which more appropriately should have been filed individually include reports from Santiago, Chile, and Lima, Peru, concerning measures against dissident elements in Bolivia, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. Another briefed item reported an official Guatemalan Government denial that the deployment of U.S. naval forces in the Caribbean constituted an attack on Guatemala's sovereignty.

8. Copy prepared for lateral distribution at the request of consumers in the field should also be evaluated in the light of its usefulness to Headquarters consumers. This reminder is not to be construed as an instruction to file material simply because it has become available, but is prompted by the occasional receipt of embassy cables referring to significant material furnished by an FBIS field bureau but which was not filed to Washington.

9. The East Coast and West Coast bureaus turned in excellent contributions to the Reaction Report on the U.S. elections. Other bureau roundups ranged from poor to good. Following are some suggestions and instructions which should be helpful in fulfilling future requests:

a. Employ the historic present tense except when its use may cause awkwardness, for example when specific items are cited in relation to date or hour.

b. Indicate the dominant trend or theme of reaction during the report period, but avoid inferences or conclusions based on fragmentary evidence.

c. Generally the scope of reaction should be that of the country itself. Where two or more bureaus independently cover material from the same country, or area, each should avoid generalizations involving the entire country or area.

d. Every effort should be made to guarantee timely receipt in Headquarters of reaction report contributions. When traffic conditions around deadline time threaten delay in routine transmission, the roundup should be sent under PRIORITY (PP) precedence.

e. Ideally, published reaction roundups should be little more than compilations of field roundups requiring little editing and rewriting. The ideal field roundup is one which can be incorporated

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in toto with area roundups received from other bureaus to produce a uniform document in which all elements are balanced. To this end, in future requests for roundups every effort will be made to indicate the length of roundups desired and other pertinent factors. Field roundup writers in turn should study published roundups for guidance in format, style, and content, and should employ in their roundups the best writing of which they are capable.

10. Bureaus should strive for continuity in coverage of such events as the recent Colombo Plan conference, providing Headquarters with a well-rounded picture of the entire event. Marginal portions of the proceedings of such a conference can be accounted for in summaries or editorial reports tying together textual accounts of significant developments.

11. The following instructions on the handling of USSR economic items are designed to prevent a too-limited distribution of material rejected for publication in the Daily Report after being filed as general briefs or as textual items flagged USSR ONLY:

a. Exploit the Economic Abstracts program to the fullest for nonperishable items, as this will relieve strain on the Daily Report and also insure adequate distribution to specialized consumers.

b. Process as Economic Abstracts even material from the republic level which can be encompassed in 20 lines and which is neither significant nor urgent enough to warrant immediate general publication.

c. When a short economic item is considered of sufficient general interest for use in the Daily Report, file it as a separate message or even as an FYI to call attention to its urgency or significance; the monitor or field editor is often in position to detect some vital aspect which might escape Headquarters attention.

d. Avoid filing as Economic Abstracts material that would become outdated before reaching consumers. Economic Abstracts are currently being published from six weeks to two months after their receipt at Headquarters.

Mediterranean Bureau

1. While FYI's concisely summarizing long broadcasts or items are appreciated, particularly by the Wire Service, an excessive number of FYI's have been received by Headquarters which would have been better published as excerpts, summaries, or editorial reports. The bureau's preparation and filing of timely FYI's is very much appreciated, but it is urged that they be followed up more often with versions suitable for Daily Report publication.

2. The initiative displayed in  FYI describing Radio Baghdad's subsequent handling of Premier Qasim's important November 12 speech to Iraqi oil workers was very much appreciated. This was an

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excellent example of the type of FYI desired for Daily Report publication.

3. Editors should use reasonable precautions to keep ANA and MENA briefs separated from voice items. When they are jumbled together they cause unnecessary delays in Headquarters processing.

London Bureau

1. The combined Soviet and East Europe roundup continues to be generally well written, and thus a useful product for our consumers. However, the roundup writer should observe the following advice:

a. The unqualified statement that "there is no mention" of an event or a statement should be avoided, for delayed processing of some programs frequently shows that the items have been reported; in cases where it is significant to point out the apparent failure of the radios to cover an item, it would be better to state that "so far there has been no monitored mention."

b. When statements which have appeared in earlier roundups need corrections, do not merely state that "contrary to earlier reports" something has happened; pinpoint the misinformation by specifically referring to the earlier roundup.

c. Subjective editorial interpretations such as "Moscow appears to be trying" to do something should only be used when there is compelling evidence to support them, and even in such cases it is better to present the material in a factual way than to speculate.

ENGINEERING AND FIELD OPERATIONS

1. Assistance was sought twice to determine the press content of two complex radioteletype transmissions intercepted by the East Coast Bureau in their attempts to extend press coverage, particularly of Africa. It was determined that considerable special equipment is required to intercept, convert, and isolate the press channel in these transmissions. The Engineering Staff is gathering data, literature and costs on the various types of equipment required as part of a study that is being made of how best to equip for the handling of such press transmissions.

2. Okinawa Construction

a. Addition of bedrooms to four duplex houses, and replacement of windows in the BOQ progressed to 75 percent completion.

b. The addition to the operations building at Bolo Point has progressed to 25 percent completion.

Accelerated progress on both jobs is expected, now that most materials ordered outside of Okinawa have been delivered.



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3. Radio Peking dropped its minority language service in Tibetan, Korean, Uighur, Mongolian, and Chuang on 5 December, advising its listeners to tune in to their respective regional stations. This has eliminated or greatly reduced FBIS coverage of programs for these minority groups as reception of the regional transmitters is very spotty. It is suggested that Far East bureau cruising monitors pay special attention to reporting reception changes from these transmitters.

ADMINISTRATION

1. The Chief FBIS and Chief Engineer FBIS inspected the FBIS Key West Post on 14 and 15 December.

2. Health insurance coverage for FBIS alien employees has been approved. The plan, to which the U.S. Government contributes a share of the cost, offers similar coverage to that provided under the Association Benefit Plan, high option.

3. The following FBIS regulatory issuances were released during the month of November:

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PERSONNEL CHANGES1. New Employees

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Assignment

Editor  
USSR & EE Section  
Editorial Branch

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2. Reassignments

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From

Deputy Chief  
Med. Bureau  
  
Editor  
London Bureau

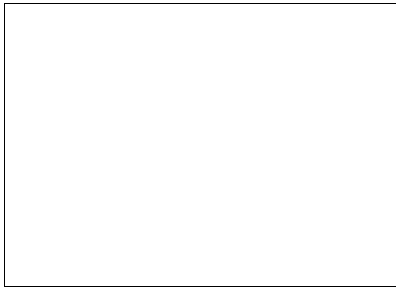
To

Projects Editor  
Editorial Branch  
  
Editor, Wire Section  
Editorial Branch

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Reassignments (Con't)



From

To

Chief  
Hokkaido Bureau  
  
Editor  
Editorial Branch  
  
Engineer  
East Coast Bureau

Chief  
African Bureau  
  
Editor  
Med. Bureau  
  
Engineer  
African Bureau

STAT

3. Separations

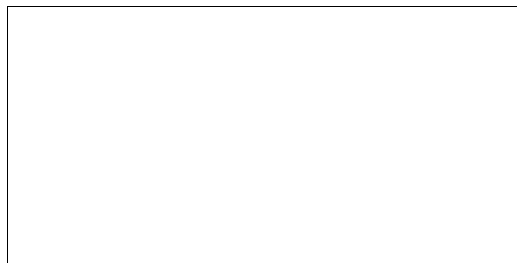


From

Teletype Supv.  
West Coast Bureau  
  
Clerk  
Editorial Branch  
  
Clerk Typist  
Editorial Branch  
  
Teletypist  
Editorial Branch  
  
Editor  
Editorial Branch

(Retirement)  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
(Retirement)

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ROGER G. SEELY