

L. P. D. L.

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22 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. FDD-FBIS Merger: The Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence announced 28 February that "effective 1 March 1967 the Foreign Documents Division, less its Acquisitions Branch, is transferred from the Office of Central Reference to the Foreign Broadcast Information Service." The action followed completion of a feasibility study by a committee headed by [] ORR. The merger in effect created a new FBIS with full responsibility for the exploitation of foreign newspapers, journals, books, and other printed documents as well as its traditional responsibility for monitoring foreign voice broadcasts, press translations, press transmissions, and television. 50X1

[] Chief, FDD, has been appointed to chair a special study committee for implementation of a model overseas press exploitation operation in London. 50X1

Among the initial steps following the merger were: direct flagging of messages from field bureaus to FDD; attendance by FDD personnel at the Staff conferences and morning briefing; transfer of appropriate administrative files from OCR to FBIS with consolidation of directories; and familiarization briefings on organization and methods. (SECRET)

2. Guam Conference: The White House situation room transmitted an Okinawa Bureau item from Hanoi VNA on 21 March reporting the February exchange of messages between President Johnson and Ho Chi Minh to the President's plane, Air Force One, while the President was en route to Washington from the Guam Conference. On his arrival, the President said in a statement to the press that he had in fact learned of Hanoi's release of the messages during his flight. The item also appeared on the Wire Service ahead of the first bulletins from Western press agencies.

Secretary Rusk, while attending the conference at Guam, requested from FBIS the full text of a Hanoi item quoting a DRV newspaper editorial on the Guam Conference. (SECRET)

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Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

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3. Nigerian Situation: The Nigerian political situation deteriorated again in early March with renewed fears of open warfare between the Federal Military Government and the Eastern region. The African Bureau continued its watch on Enugu radio, and on the night of 28 February-1 March filed an Eastern Nigeria Government rejoinder to remarks said to have been made by Supreme Commander Gowon to diplomats in Lagos. The bureau continued to be plagued with long communications outages. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Accra has been designated a contingency site for the African Bureau and the concurrence of the State Department has been requested. A communications transmitting site on the Accra outskirts, soon to be vacated, will be earmarked for FBIS use in the event the operation at Kaduna must be closed down. (SECRET)

4. Bangkok Bureau Development: The Royal Thai Government was petitioned during February concerning the entry into Thailand of FBIS foreign nationals to be assigned to the Bangkok Bureau. Thai officials expressed keen interest in the FBIS product and stated they would support the entry of FBIS third country nationals. By the end of the month the names of five monitors who will be transferred to Bangkok from Saigon had been presented to Thai immigration authorities.

A major shipment of electronic equipment was received on 16 February. The bureau's teletype equipment was inspected by a STRATCOM maintenance team, and the bureau was authorized to employ two additional teletypists in anticipation of full activation of its communications in late March. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. Chinese Coverage: Reporting on the situation in Communist China continued at a high volume. The Okinawa Bureau alone expanded its China file by some 10,000 words per day. In mid-March five provincial capitals continued to relay Peking continuously while other provincial radios carried independent programming to various degrees. The Tokyo Bureau was authorized to hire an additional Chinese monitor locally to expand coverage of regional stations, in conjunction with the Okinawa and Hokkaido bureaus. A new Chinese monitor recruit has entered into training at Okinawa. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Effective 8 March, the Printing Services Division allocated the Daily Report an additional 35 pages, intended primarily for Communist China material. Following this development, the Editorial Division reported there were no Communist China "discards" caused by publication limitations.

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Eleven items prepared by RPD for the FBIS Wire Service in the month ending 10 March dealt with Chinese regional radio behavior and regional activity of the Maoist "rebels," incorporating material supplied by the Okinawa, Tokyo, and West Coast bureaus, and by the BBC's Hong Kong unit. Another Wire item provided data and background on the initiation of broadcasts to China over the USSR's "unofficial" Radio Peace and Progress. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

6. Analysis Services: A study of Hanoi claims of North Vietnamese civilian casualties resulting from U.S. bombings since the beginning of December 1966 was prepared by RPD in response to a State Department request. Statements by Ho Chi Minh and Defense Minister Giap of North Vietnam on the alleged impact of U.S. public opposition to U.S. policy on the war in Vietnam were assembled by RPD in response to a crash request from DIA. An analysis of current Soviet propaganda on aid to North Vietnam was prepared by RPD for CINCPACAF. A chronology of Sino-Soviet polemics on charges of Chinese obstruction of Soviet aid to Vietnam appears in the 2 March issue of the Survey; the DDI Research Staff expressed special appreciation for the material. MACV in Saigon expressed interest in receiving advance copies of the Trends covering Hanoi and Liberation Front propaganda on the military situation in Vietnam. (SECRET)

Recent propaganda relating to the Sino-Soviet borderlands was reviewed in an RPD special report (CD.273 of 3 March) in response to queries from Agency and State Department consumers. The U.S. Embassy in Moscow expressed interest in a report on Tashkent broadcasts in Uighur in the 2 February Survey, which is updated in CD.273. London Bureau is supplying regular information on the content of Tashkent broadcasts. (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. Special Services: FBIS provided a coverage "package"--press agency, press, radio, and television materials--in fulfilling an Organization requirement for Cuban reportage and comment on the kidnaping and murder of the Venezuelan foreign minister's brother by terrorist elements. The East Coast and Key West bureaus provided press agency material and radio and TV-soundtrack tapes, while the Foreign Documents Division supplied an issue of a Cuban newspaper.

ECB also supplied three tapes of Cuban Premier Castro's lengthy 13 March speech for interested Agency and State Department consumers.

The Panama Bureau, in response to a joint State Department-Agency request, sent a number of Havana and Moscow Quechua tapes critical of the Bolivian Government to U.S. Ambassador Henderson in La Paz.

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FDD and RPD provided some 30 items to an Organization component in answering a request for Cuban-source material over the last four months expressing support for Colombian rebel groups.

A list of speech recordings on hand in FBIS by President Nasir of the UAR was compiled for an Organization component.

To meet Headquarters requirements, the London Bureau made special arrangements for coverage of Soviet Premier Kosygin's visit to Britain. Kosygin's 8 February Guildhall luncheon speech, his press conference 9 February, and an interview with Kenneth Harris on 10 February were processed by bureau monitors from BBC television which was line-fed by the BBC monitoring service. Editorial personnel, using a Bureau television receiver, directly monitored and taped the same programs for flash coverage.

The German Bureau made special arrangements for coverage of a film made in Canton, Communist China, by a West German television team and broadcast over the Mainz Television Service 3 February. Captions based on the remarks of the television commentator were affixed to 45 photographs selected for forwarding to Headquarters. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

The Monitoring Operations Section and RPD provided material in response to a State Department request for information on Soviet broadcasts beamed to the CPR. MOS also fulfilled requests from the Federal Communications Commission regarding the inauguration of two high-powered, mediumwave transmitters in Cuba, and from the Special Surveys Branch, Bureau of the Census, concerning information for a National Intelligence Survey on Algeria. (SECRET)

8. Punta del Este Conference: The White House has requested a world reaction report on the Punta del Este Conference to be held 12-14 April. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

FBIS and Secret Service representatives have met to coordinate coverage of Latin American media in regard to the President's forthcoming visit to Punta del Este. FDD has been providing press coverage since last August and has shifted resources from other areas to permit broader reporting on the meeting, attitudes toward the conference, and instances of agitation or threats of violence. (SECRET)

9. FDD Publication: On 20 March the FDD contractual facility published a translation of the full text of "Revolucion en la Revolucion?" by the French Marxist writer Regis Debray. Parts of the book had previously been broadcast

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by Radio Havana and attracted wide interest because Debray advances the Castro view that guerrilla warfare is preferable to peaceful political action as a means to power, a doctrine adopted by the Colombian ELN and Venezuelan FLN-FALN parties. (CONFIDENTIAL)

10. Lateral Services: The London Bureau began filing communist source items and the special roundup on disarmament to DISARMDEL, Geneva, on 21 February when meetings of the 18-nation disarmament committee resumed.

The Tokyo Bureau has begun forwarding to the Cabinet Research Council of the Government of Japan items from Hanoi VNA filed by the Okinawa Bureau. The bureau is also supplying the regional correspondent of the Voice of America a drop copy of the NCNA file.

The London Bureau transmitted the complete Nairobi Bureau file to the Commander-in-Chief, STRIKE Command, McDill AFB, Florida for the period 16-23 March. STRIKE Command was specifically interested in material relating to military-political developments in French Somaliland, the Somali Republic, and Ethiopia. (SECRET)

11. Use of FBIS Materials: The State Department forwarded a 9 March PRAVDA article praising the Cuban revolution and criticizing the "prolonged oppression" in Venezuela, as provided by TASS and published in the Daily Report, to the U.S. Embassy in Caracas for the attention of the Venezuelan Government. (CONFIDENTIAL)

12. Commendations: In a letter to the Director, FBIS, dated 25 February, Voice of America Director John Chancellor expressed "my personal thanks for the interest your organization has shown in helping the Voice of America solve some of its problems in the gathering of news. On two recent occasions a group of six or more of your staff members have visited us at the Voice and have eagerly solicited comments or suggestions on ways to serve us better. We know that we are only one of your 'clients' for the FBIS Wire, and we are flattered at the attention you give to our needs."

An Organization official noted in a letter to FBIS appreciation for the "rapid and satisfactory response" to a Pacific Air Force request for increased receipt of material on Vietnam, Communist China, and Soviet Air Force matters. The letter said that on 21 February PACAF had reported that General Triantafellu was "very pleased with the increased coverage."

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U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Winthrop G. Brown expressed to the Chief, Okinawa Bureau, his appreciation for the bureau's translations of North Korean materials filed to the Embassy in Seoul.

The deputy director of the State Department Operations Center, Mr. Frank Meehan, told members of the Editorial Division during a recent tour of the Center that FBIS frequently gets the texts of diplomatic notes, including those addressed to our own government, into Washington from open radio and press transmissions before they are received through State Department channels. Notes delivered to embassies, it was explained, are often delayed because of translation problems and analysis of the substance. (CONFIDENTIAL)

13. Briefings and Visits: The Director, FBIS, and the Chief, Engineering Staff, visited the West Coast, Bangkok, Saigon, Okinawa, Tokyo, and Hokkaido bureaus in February and March. The Director, FBIS, also visited an FDD field office in San Francisco on the same trip. The Chief, Executive Staff, visited the Panama, Caribbean, and Key West bureaus 14-28 January. (SECRET)

The Deputy Chief, Okinawa Bureau, spent the period 21-25 February in Hong Kong where he conferred at the Consulate General and with the BBC monitoring unit concerning communications problems. The Chief, Tokyo Bureau, visited the Hokkaido Bureau 13-15 February with the Director, FBIS. The Chief Engineer, Okinawa Bureau, tested applicants for foreign national technician positions during a visit to Tokyo 8-9 March. (CONFIDENTIAL)

[redacted] of the Office of Planning, Programming, and Budgeting, and Mr. Robert Fuchs, D/Finance, visited the Caribbean Bureau 24 February. (SECRET)

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Among other visitors to bureaus were [redacted] Chief Engineer, BBC External Services, and [redacted] head of the BBC Tatsfield Receiving Station, at the Mediterranean Bureau 23 February; the USIS PAO in Lagos, Mr. William Hutchinson, and Mr. Lawrence Rogers, who is conducting a survey of African broadcasting for USIS, at the African Bureau 27 February; and Lt. Gen. F. T. Unger, Commanding General, USARYIS, at the Okinawa Bureau, 21 February. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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14. RPD Commentators List: A supplement to the March 1959 FBIS catalog of Soviet commentators is in preparation in RPD, covering 1966. Additional supplements will be issued as research time is available. A complete new catalog superseding the publication of 1959 will be issued when all data is at hand. All bureaus monitoring Moscow will receive copies of the 1966 supplement; new names and new information on names already listed will be welcomed from all bureaus and should be addressed to Jean Hite, RPD. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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16. Executive Assistant: Effective 15 March 1967, [redacted] was designated Executive Assistant to the Director, FBIS. (ADMINISTRATIVE--INTERNAL USE ONLY)

FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

17. Broadcast Developments: Moscow's "Radio Peace and Progress" began transmissions in Mandarin to China on 1 March. Disavowed by Radio Moscow as to sponsorship, these broadcasts are carried four times daily--an original 30-minute program rebroadcast three times. The radio now transmits as well in Portuguese, English, French, and Spanish, with transmissions totaling 46 hours, 30 minutes weekly. Tokyo Bureau is covering the new Mandarin casts.

On 16 March, Radio Tirana announced the inauguration of two half-hour, daily transmissions in the Indonesian language. The Okinawa Bureau is surveying the new broadcast's content. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

18. AUTODIN Communications: The West Coast Bureau entered the DCS AUTODIN communications network on 20 February. During the first eight days traffic from WCB to Headquarters was doublefiled, on the leased circuit and later by AUTODIN. Doublefiling was discontinued 28 February with all traffic now being sent via AUTODIN. Average transit time thus far has been 11 minutes for "immediates" and 25 minutes for "priorities." (SECRET)

19. Okinawa Target System: The Okinawa Bureau has been informed that project plans for a Firebee-Towbee Drone Target System installation on Bolo Point have been forwarded by Army Headquarters at Ft. Buckner to higher authority. The bureau is attempting to make arrangements locally whereby modifications to the construction plans would provide adequate protection against electronic interference. (CONFIDENTIAL)

20. Man-Transportable Monitoring Units: The fabrication of six Man-Transportable Monitoring Units is progressing satisfactorily with the units expected to be completed in approximately six weeks. The equipment, fitted to normal size luggage, is designed for use in meeting emergency monitoring situations. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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21. NCNA Tape Relay: The Headquarters Engineering Staff has developed a prototype of the necessary automatic teletype equipment to transmit NCNA tape over DCA circuits and conform to DCA format regulations. A demonstration of the equipment was held on 17 March. The device will permit the relay of NCNA material transmitted in English without the need for repunching at the field bureau. The prototype will be operationally tested at the West Coast Bureau. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

22. Field Bureau Construction: The building contract for the Caribbean Bureau was 49 percent completed by the end of February. Progress on the construction of the auxiliary building reached the point during early March where the Chief Engineer was able to take beneficial occupancy. A decision that two beams of substandard concrete in the new operations building will have to be removed and rebuilt will delay completion of that building by an estimated six weeks. It is now estimated that occupancy of the main radio area will take place in August and that the entire installation will be ready for full operation in November.

The Public Works Department, U.S. Naval Station, Key West, has expended funds made available to it by FBIS for purchase of materials to improve the Key West Bureau's seawall. The project is scheduled for completion in April. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

ADMINISTRATION

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24. Travel Accountings. Bureaus are reminded that travel vouchers must be in Headquarters by the due date shown on the travel order. If the due date cannot be met, bureaus must request an extension from Headquarters with justification in writing. (UNCLASSIFIED)

25. Conversion of Contract Health Insurance. Contract Health Insurance may now be converted to an individual policy when the protected person is no longer eligible for group coverage. As requests for conversion must be approved by Headquarters, a memorandum should be submitted to the Insurance Branch within the period from 30 days prior to resignation or retirement to 31 days following separation. Headquarters will notify the bureau concerned of approval or disapproval. (ADMIN--INTERNAL USE ONLY)

26. Reimbursement of Puerto Rican Excise Tax on POVs. The Office of General Counsel has ruled that an FBIS employee transferred laterally to the Caribbean Bureau from an overseas bureau may be reimbursed for the Puerto Rican excise tax he is required to pay on his privately-owned vehicle when he is unable to prove ownership of the vehicle prior to the issuance date of travel orders which authorize its shipment to Puerto Rico at government expense.

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27. Training. [redacted] Deputy Chief, Editorial Division, and [redacted] Chief, USSR/EE Branch, attended the Managerial Grid Course 13-18 March. (ADMIN--INTERNAL USE ONLY)

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28. Regulatory Issuances. The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: (SECRET)

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PERSONNEL

29. New Employees



Assignment

Editor, Far East Branch, Editorial Division
Editor, East Coast Bureau
Clerk, Support Branch, FDD

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30. Reassignments



From

To

Editor Editor, Far East Branch
West Coast Bureau Editorial Division

Editor Editor, Far East Branch
Tokyo Bureau Editorial Division

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31. Resignations



From

Editor, Editorial Division
Typist, Editorial Division

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EDITORIAL GUIDANCE FOR FIELD BUREAUS

1. In filing FYI's field bureaus should insure that any editorial or monitorial interpretation or speculation should be clearly indicated as such.
2. Editors should review Editorial Handbook definitions of Summary and Editorial Report. Filing of summaries which are in fact editorial reports, and vice versa, is still occurring frequently.
3. Editorial reports and FYI's should include an indication of further processing plans.
4. Editors are reminded to indicate in the subslug whether a broadcast speech is live, recorded, or read by announcer. When this is impossible to determine, a note to that effect should be included.
5. Attention is called to Page I-13 of the Editorial Handbook on editing of English-language materials from sources to whom the English language is foreign. Editorial changes in such copy should be made primarily in the interest of clear syntax, and not to express individual word preferences when the original wording is acceptable. Even in the case of East European English-language press transmissions--which frequently leave much to be desired--changes should be limited to those necessary to make the meaning clear.

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ROGER G. SEELY
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Foreign Broadcast Information Service