

29 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. African Bureau Situation: The 29 July army putsch, though deepening uncertainties about Nigeria's future and greatly increasing tension, did not seriously disrupt the African Bureau's operations. The bureau's communications functioned much more effectively than during past crises, and except for 29 July, when Nigerian communications were totally disrupted, a curtailed but vital file was received in Headquarters each day. After several days of transmitting the bureau file via alternate emergency circuitry into London for relay to Washington, normal communications were restored 2 August. The monitoring mission continued despite a very real fear for their lives by Ibos and other non-Northerners employed in the North by FBIS and other U.S. missions. As a precaution, and to reassure the African staff, the bureau chief arranged for a 24-hour police guard of the non-Staff housing area. The Warning Phase of the State Department's Emergency and Evacuation Plan for the North was imposed for approximately a week, as was a ban on American travelers entering Nigeria. Emergency plans were reviewed both in Kaduna and at FBIS Headquarters. During the height of the crisis, the East Coast Bureau backstopped coverage of Lagos and other West African transmitters as reception permitted, and provided useful information on Lagos radio behavior. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Saigon Situation: July in Saigon was relatively calm with only minor incidents of Viet Cong terrorism reported. However, there was concern among Vietnamese and U.S. officials that terrorist activity would be stepped up during the election campaign which culminates 11 September. There were press reports of increased security measures around Saigon's perimeter and a minimum curfew from 2400-0400 was maintained. Meanwhile there was no improvement in the economic picture. General criticism of the recent 7.5-percent wage increase for local U.S. mission employees continued, as did rumors of an impending strike by the employees. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Mediterranean Bureau Developments: There was some increase of tension in Cyprus during July and early August, due mainly to several incidents of armed confrontation between Greeks and Turks. Searches of Turks entering and leaving Nicosia were intensified, leading to strong protests, and U.N. officials described the situation at roadblocks throughout the island as the

Group 1
Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

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worst since the summer of 1964. During discussions between the Chief and Deputy Chief and appropriate security officers it was unanimously agreed that the Marine Guard detachment at the bureau should be retained. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. Caribbean Bureau Progress: During July landowner Manuel Sanchez and the U.S. Attorney in San Juan reached agreement on a purchase price for the Caribbean Bureau's 56-acre central site and the entrance road right-of-way. Negotiations are in progress for the purchase of some 275 acres of antenna field land on the east and south sides of the central site. After some delay caused by nonavailability of materials and lack of approved shop drawings, work on the foundation of the bureau's auxiliary building and on the basement of the operations building was resumed during the second week of August. The Navy-FBIS agreement on operation and maintenance of the bureau's microwave communications system was signed 19 August. On 15 August the monitoring operation was moved from the Transportable Monitoring Unit (TMU) to a specially equipped van without interrupting operations. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. Services on Vietnam: Recent services on Vietnam included a review for the State Department of CPR statements in the past year on volunteers for Vietnam. USIA was supplied with Soviet reaction to Indian Prime Minister Gandhi's press conference statement with regard to a new Geneva conference and withdrawal of troops from Vietnam, as well as rundowns of Moscow's treatment of President Johnson's Omaha and Des Moines speeches, Under Secretary of State Ball's Congressional testimony, and the possible trial of captured U.S. pilots by the DRV.

Upon request, a Hoc Tap article by Nguyen Chi Thanh, indicating serious dissension in mid-1965 within the Viet Cong and possibly between Hanoi and the Viet Cong over the U.S. troop buildup, was specially repunched and filed priority to Admiral Sharp, Commander in Chief Pacific. Though Saigon Bureau, upon local request, had filed the article to CINCPAC earlier, it was decided to file the item again to insure personal receipt by the admiral. The DIA Human Resources Office recently was added as a wire recipient of all monitored material on U.S. POW's in Southeast Asia. The Saigon Bureau's expeditious processing of recent speeches by Prince Sihanouk, and particularly the Cambodian leader's remarks about relations with the Viet Cong, the DRV, and the South Vietnamese Government, prompted expressions of appreciation by consumers in Washington, including the State Department's Far Eastern desk. (SECRET)

6. Special Services: The Wire Service, in response to a crash request from Presidential Press Secretary Bill Moyers, reran to the White House Situation Room for relay to President Johnson at his Texas ranch the text of the CCP Central Committee plenum's 13 August communique. In response to the intelligence community's continuing interest in the state of Cuban Premier

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Fidel Castro's health, the Key West Bureau forwarded to an Agency component videotapes of Castro's 14 July speech and two earlier ones. The Mediterranean Bureau wirefiled to the U.S. Embassy, Cairo, a portion of President Nasir's 22 July speech which was missed by the embassy because of a recorder failure. Tapes of recorded statements of captured U.S. pilots Denton and Coffee, broadcast by Peking radio, were supplied by the West Coast Bureau at Headquarters request. (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. Research and Analysis Services: Research requests from Agency components dealt, among other things, with demonstrations before the U.S. Embassy in Moscow; most recent usage by the Chinese of the term "socialist camp"; the number of participants in CPR rallies; Polish propaganda on the U.S. business community and its cooperation with the Agency; Soviet reports of trade delegations in Chile; and Peking reports on an International Union of Students meeting in Cairo.

Information about Soviet propaganda on aspects of space and science was provided by RPD for consumers in the intelligence community: NASA was supplied with Soviet statements since January 1966 on the Soviet Union's leading role in space; another consumer was assisted in locating a Brezhnev claim, made in December 1964, that the Soviet lead in science and technology was definitive; and material on Soviet "orbital rockets" was forwarded to the Foreign Missile and Space Analysis Center. An inquiry about the number of signatures to the Stockholm Appeal of August 1950 was answered for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Other primary consumers were supplied with Moscow and Peking reaction to the 2 June French nuclear test, information on Soviet treatment of France's failure to sign the July 1963 test ban treaty, and an item on Cuban assistance to medical installations in Africa. (SECRET)

8. Lateral Services: The London Bureau is servicing the U.S. Embassy, Athens, with material from the clandestine Voice of Truth in Greek. During the latter half of July the London Bureau, upon request, filed three Nasir speeches to the U.S. Embassy in Athens.

The value of CPR and DPRK broadcast material filed to Seoul by the Okinawa Bureau was stressed during a visit to the bureau by Maj. Gen. J. O. Butcher, USMC, the senior American representative on the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom. At the Okinawa Bureau's request, the Tokyo and West Coast Bureaus recently began filing to a local consumer in Okinawa all items of a political nature dealing with Japan. On 25 July the Okinawa Bureau began wirefiling CPR domestic material to the station in Hong Kong. An urgent request to the Okinawa Bureau from 7th and 13th Air Force units in Thailand for reports on downed aircraft and captured U.S. personnel said that such FBIS material would have a bearing on U.S. rescue operations, possibly leading to the

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cancellation of some missions and eliminating needless risk to both personnel and aircraft. During Secretary Rusk's 8-9 July stay in South Korea, the Okinawa Bureau wirefiled to the U.S. Embassy, Seoul, communist radio comment on the visit.

During July the Saigon Bureau, upon request, supplied its Press and Radio Highlights to a visiting Foreign Service inspection team headed by Ambassador Julius Holmes; forwarded to South Vietnam Foreign Minister Tran Van Do, via the Embassy, a copy of Indian Prime Minister Gandhi's proposal to reconvene the Geneva Conference on Vietnam; and supplied a tape recording of Ho Chi Minh's mobilization appeal for use in JUSPAO's psychological warfare programing. (SECRET)

9. Use of FBIS Materials: Recent cables from the U.S. Embassy in Saigon cited FBIS-monitored material revealing the differing attitudes of the CPR and North Vietnam on the continued validity of the Geneva Agreements; the NFLSV Central Committee's condemnation of the forthcoming South Vietnam elections; and Hanoi radio's tribute to "comrade experts"--presumably Chinese--"who have sacrificed themselves on our soil." An FBIS-monitored item from Pyongyang radio alerted the U.S. Embassy in Seoul to the fact that the North Korean Foreign Ministry had sent a letter to U Thant requesting that its 21 July memorandum on unification of Korea be issued to member states as a U.N. document without delay. The National Council of Churches in New York, which receives the unrestricted Daily Report and uses all relevant information for its publication "Religion in Communist Dominated Areas," was able to return the favor by supplying for FBIS' Radio Propaganda Division its translation of letters to USSR President Podgorny from two Russian priests criticizing the Soviet government for religious suppression.

Fourteen percent of the items appearing in the OCI Digest during July were based wholly or in part on FBIS-monitored items. (CONFIDENTIAL)

10. Briefings and Visits: Ten Agency Career Trainees recently heard talks by Deputy Director [redacted] and the chiefs of the Editorial and Radio Propaganda Divisions on career prospects in FBIS. The CT's later were given a tour of FBIS Headquarters. Two staff members of the VOA newsroom's Latin America desk who have frequent contact with FBIS Wire editors visited the Wire Service to meet their counterparts. Recent visitors to Headquarters from DIA included several analysts from the Latin American Division and an Air Force colonel who had just returned from Moscow and was able to provide information on television monitoring there.

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Mr. Chalmers B. Wood, newly designated Country Director for Cyprus, visited the Mediterranean Bureau 21 July for a briefing. During a recent visit to the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, the chief of the German Bureau briefed

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Minister Martin J. Hillenbrand and Mr. Ray S. Cline, Chief Coordinator and Special Adviser (OCA), on German Bureau operations. Mr. Howard W. Talbot, station manager of Radio Liberty, Taipei, visited the Tokyo Bureau 27 July. (SECRET)

11. Hokkaido Bureau Relocation: The U.S. Army Japan on 25 July informed the Hokkaido Bureau that formal transfer of the land required by FBIS adjacent to Chitose III had been accomplished. Further production difficulties probably will delay the arrival of 10 housing units for the relocated bureau until June or July of 1967. (CONFIDENTIAL)

12. Editorial Handbook: A revised edition of the FBIS Editorial Handbook was completed in late July after an extensive review of field bureau and Editorial Division procedures. The handbook went to the printers 9 August and distribution is scheduled for September. (UNCLASSIFIED)

13. Okinawa Red Cross Volunteers: Seven wives of Okinawa Bureau employees, including six foreign nationals, who are working as American Red Cross Volunteers at the Kadena Air Base dispensary and in the Vietnam Air Medical Evacuation Program, were "capped" in a 26 July ceremony held at the Kadena Air Base Chapel. (UNCLASSIFIED)

FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

14. Broadcasting-Monitoring Statistics: In response to a high-level request, FOS recently compiled the following up-to-date statistics on world broadcast output, the monitoring task, and the resultant intelligence product:

Number of foreign broadcasting stations (AM,FM,TV)	17,000
Words broadcast daily	750,000,000
Average words monitored daily by FBIS	6,000,000
Average words filed daily by field bureaus	240,000
Average words published daily in Daily Reports	125,000

(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

15. Brazil Coverage: Partial responsibility for coverage of Brazil will be transferred to Caribbean Bureau at the beginning of September, when two monitors are transferred on PCS from the East Coast Bureau. A cruising check in Puerto Rico confirmed that present Brazilian coverage can be handled well with the temporary antenna system and that there are additional coverage possibilities. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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16. Broadcasting Developments: On 28 July (Haiti time) Radio Moscow broadcast its first program in Haitian Creole as a part of its Latin American service. The special broadcast by Haitian expatriates was announced "to commemorate the American invasion of Haiti on July 28, 1915." There are indications that Moscow intends to inaugurate a regular service in Creole to Haiti. Panama Bureau, with recording aid from the West Coast Bureau, covered the first broadcast and will attempt future coverage.

Peking initiated broadcasting in Urdu for India and Pakistan on 1 August, with two 30-minute programs daily displacing an English transmission for South Asia. The Okinawa Bureau has coverage responsibility.

Since late April, when direct Moscow broadcasts in Czech and Slovak were resumed after being suspended in 1959, the number and frequency of transmissions of recorded, Moscow-prepared programs carried on Czechoslovak Domestic Service transmitters has slowly dwindled to only one weekly program in each language. Coverage by the BBC continues. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

17. IBM Equipment: All bureaus which received the new IBM recording and transcribing equipment have completed installation, and monitors' assessment of performance has been very favorable. FBIS domestic bureaus continue to use Dictaphone equipment. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

ADMINISTRATION

18. Obsolete and Surplus Equipment: Field bureaus should regularly review equipment inventories with a view to disposing of obsolete or surplus stock. This is especially important because obsolete and surplus equipment is registered in the annual dollar reports at the same cost as new or "in use" property, thus presenting a false inventory value. Also, bureau retention of property not actually needed for current operations can result in excessive maintenance and storage burdens. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

19. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuance was disseminated: (UNCLASSIFIED)



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EDITORIAL

1. Logs and Program Summaries: Bureaus submitting press agency logs and program summaries to headquarters on a regular basis for reference purposes are asked to insure that they accurately reflect the status of items selected for processing. Recently there have been a number of instances of fruitless searches in headquarters for items listed as "sent" that were in fact still being processed by the field bureau. Those items selected for processing but not actually filed at the time the log is sent to headquarters should be designated as being processed, texted, summarized, etc., as appropriate. "Sent" should denote items that actually have been sent.

2. New EmployeesAssignment

Technician, East Coast Bureau

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Editor, ME/AF/WE/LA Branch, Editorial Division

3. ReassignmentsFromToChief
L & R StaffChief
Saigon Bureau

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Deputy Chief
Okinawa BureauChief
East Coast BureauChief
East Coast BureauDetailed to special
project in HeadquartersEditor
East Coast BureauEditor, ME/AF/WE/LA Branch,
Editorial DivisionDeputy Chief
Editorial DivisionDeputy Chief
Okinawa BureauChief Engineer
Okinawa BureauChief Engineer
Mediterranean BureauTeletype Supervisor
Tokyo BureauTeletype Supervisor, Wire
Service Br., Editorial Div.Operations Officer
Field Operations StaffAsst. Chief Engineer
West Coast Bureau

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3. (Cont'd)



Section Chief
Editorial Division

Senior Editor
Tokyo Bureau

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Editor
London Bureau

Editor, USSR & EE Branch,
Editorial Division

4. Separations

From



Mono-Monitor, Key West Bureau

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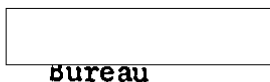
Analyst, Radio Propaganda Division

5. Temporary Duty in Headquarters



- Orientation en route from Key West Bureau
to Okinawa Bureau

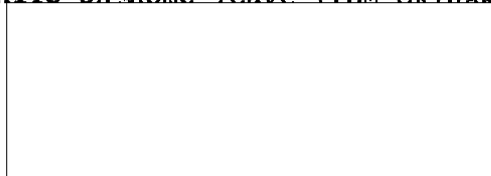
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- Reorientation while on home leave from Okinawa
Bureau

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ROGER G. SEELY
Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service