

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

← Is'lad

6 November 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Group
FROM: Chief, Field Coverage Staff
SUBJECT: Islamabad Survey Report

1. Attached is a copy of the report on the Islamabad monitorability and program schedule survey prepared by Richard G. Measham, Chief Monitor, World Schedules Section, BBC Monitoring Service. The survey was carried out by Measham with the assistance of [] from 4 to 10 October.

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2. The purpose of Measham's Islamabad TDY basically was twofold -- to assist and instruct [] in locating potential coverage and useable frequencies for the primary and secondary coverage targets projected for the Islamabad Unit and to recheck reception data for these targets which had been previously surveyed in January 1979.

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3. On the basis of his report and material supplied by [], it appears Measham did an excellent job and accomplished a great deal in the short time he was in Islamabad. Unfortunately, because the time allotted for actual survey work was reduced in the end to 5 days, rather than the 2 weeks that we originally estimated would be required, the survey objectives were not fully accomplished. (The reduction in actual survey time was the result of a combination of factors, including the Moscow frequency changes which required Measham's presence in London and last minute travel complications which could not have been

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foreseen.) Only the primary targets -- Soviet regional, Afghan and Iranian regional stations -- were checked, the latter only superficially. It's not clear how much time was spent in actually locating potential coverage -- newscasts and other programs -- and instructing [] in this process. However, it appears that [] spent a good deal of time working with Measham, and the final report includes program schedules for many of the stations, which should make locating coverage fairly easy.

4. The results of Measham's reception checks do not differ significantly from the findings of the 1979 reception survey, and most of the differences probably can be chalked up to seasonal reception variations and/or slight differences between BBC's and our methods of rating reception. Some of the salient points of Measham's report follow:

- + Islamabad should be able to provide excellent coverage of Afghanistan, including full broadcast day coverage of the Kabul Domestic Service First Program (for backstop or for primary coverage should BBC lose access to the "feeder circuit" from which it is now monitoring this service) and Second Program.
- + Good coverage should be available of Kabul International Service broadcasts in English and Urdu to South Asia. Kabul International Service broadcasts to Europe and the Middle East in Russian, Arabic Pashto/Dari, German and English could not be monitored. This corresponds to the finding of the 1979 survey:
- + The three Afghan regional stations in Herat, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif were heard but with inadequate reception for reliable monitoring.
- + A brief check of Iranian regional stations located four in western Iran that could be heard with adequate reception during hours of darkness (none were located

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during hours of daylight); these were Bandar Abass, Zabol, Zahedan and Tayebad. Two additional stations (Jiroft, and Birjand) which had been heard during the 1979 survey with adequate reception, were also heard, but with poor and very poor reception.

+ Tehran International Service broadcasts in Urdu and Pashto to South Asia were heard with adequate reception. The broadcast in Russian to the USSR was heard only briefly. (Observations at other bureaus indicated that this particular service was the victim of some type of technical difficulties for a period of several weeks until approximately 20 October. It should be adequately monitorable in Islamabad).

+ Three Soviet regional stations -- Alma Ata (Kazakh SSR), Dushanbe (Tadzhik SSR) and Tashkent (Uzbek SSR)-- were found to be monitorable throughout the broadcast day. Two stations -- Frunze (Kirghiz SSR) and Ashkhabad (Turkmen SSR) were monitorable during hours of darkness. Three lower-level Kazakh stations -- Chimkent, Kyzyl Orda, and Taldy Kurgan -- were heard but with inadequate reception for reliable coverage. It is possible reception will improve from late October to March. Fergana, a lower-level Kirghiz station, apparently was not checked. This coverage picture is slightly less optimistic than the projected on the basis of the 1979 survey; however, as noted earlier, reception could improve with seasonal changes and/or possibly improved antennas.

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