

ADMINISTRATIVE-INTERNAL USE ONLY OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

*C/OPS*

*M.C. - General*  
*[Handwritten initials]*

7 July 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Exploitation of Soviet Central Asian Media

1. The exploitation program on the Soviet Central Asian press begun by UD earlier this year was the subject of a meeting between representatives of UD and AG on 7 July, called at UD's initiative. Contract employee [redacted] replied to questions concerning the conceptual aims and practical modalities of the program. The meeting clarified some issues, registered agreement on how some UD-initiated material that goes beyond normal FBIS collection functions should be published, and left some other issues unresolved.

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*Note! what does it mean?*

2. A major achievement was an agreement in principle that the work produced by the FBIS contractors should be geared to Community interests and made generally available. Up to now, the contractors on the project have been working on a "two-track system," producing on the one hand translations for publication by JPRS, and, on the other hand, various kinds of background materials--historical essays, biographical information, collations--intended for data banks or internal educational purposes, but not for general distribution. The participants in the meeting agreed that it will make sense to gear the UD program for collecting biographical information to other existing programs in OCR, AG and elsewhere so as to minimize duplication of effort and ensure that the information collected is made generally available. We can work this out jointly as the FBIS-wide efforts develop.

3. We also agreed that for the time being at least, material of a judgmental nature obtained from the contractors, such as collations of excerpts organized to illustrate a theme, with prefatory interpretive comment, could be published in an FBIS SPECIAL MEMORANDUM or in a FOREIGN PRESS NOTE--in some instances supplementing or complementing broader analytic treatment in a TRENDS article. We agreed that we would all have to play this by ear for awhile and that it would be helpful if contact points were established in each of the three Groups to facilitate consultation and coordination as questions relating to processing and publication arise. AG LOGNOTE No. 4 of 7 July identifies the contact points subsequently named by each Group.

4. The AG participants came away with the feeling that these agreements can become the focal points of fruitful collaboration among all FBIS people concerned with the Soviet nationalities problem. We also see a number of problems that remain to be ironed out. First,

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further thought and discussion needs to be given to the question of how AG can best discharge its responsibilities for guiding collection efforts in FBIS in this area--including field collection--without unnecessarily complicating UD's administration of the JPRS contractor effort. Perhaps the solution lies in joint periodic reviews of overall selection requirements and priorities, spanning the three Groups, as a supplement to the informal desk-level exchanges that take place on a day-to-day basis. Secondly, we should give thought to a simple mechanism for reaching coordinated decisions on jobs assigned to JPRS contractors that do not fall within the normal FBIS processing categories and are intended for special dissemination or publication in vehicles like the SPECIAL MEMORANDUM; it will make sense, in terms of effective use of resources all around, to have an idea in advance of where we plan to publish--or how we plan to circulate--an expository piece we may ask a contractor to prepare. At least for now, the Group contact points would seem the logical channel for making such decisions.

5. Finally, we think further discussion should take place to develop a common understanding and consensus on the terminology and the overall outlines of the FBIS program. One briefing paper distributed at the meeting, for example, describes the basic requirements of "Muslim Litint analysts," among which were specified biographic files, "raw and processed data files," and "new methodologies and techniques for Muslim litint." We think these terms of reference need sorting out, and we believe an agreed understanding should be developed concerning the scope and goals of the program.

6. We found the meeting useful and would like to see more, with Operations Group included to ensure that people concerned with the field collection effort and with DAILY REPORT publication are fully keyed into UD's and AG's activities and plans. We welcome the working session with the contractors planned by UD.



Chief, USSR/EE Branch, AG

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cc: D/FBIS, AC/Prod, C/UD, C/ops, C/DRD, C/JPRS

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