

ADMINISTRATIVE -- INTERNAL USE ONLY

11 February 1982

MEMO TO: [redacted]
Chief, Operations Group, FBIS

SUBJECT: TDY, 25-29 January to Austrian
Bureau and Cologne Unit

Dear Jerry:

I must say that the people at Austrian Bureau very vigorously belie the reputation the bureau seems to have acquired as an "ageing bureau." Six years older they may be since I saw them last but they look to be in great shape.

I got a good report on how [redacted] sees the VCVC link working and what his goals are and was able to relay his views to the B.B.C. on my return. A B.B.C. engineer, almost certainly Vernon Smith, will be going to Vienna in March to make the necessary equipment modifications of the system and will take with him the schematics that [redacted] has requested. The new configuration, proposed by the B.B.C., is to be completed by the end of March. I have continued to press the case to the B.B.C. that it must reduce the technical load on the bureau. We shall see. [redacted] and [redacted] are, of course, concerned that the same thing will happen with the second line that happened with the first. I am assured that that will not be the case and that the promised fruits will fall.

Other matters discussed: 1) Kiev coverage, which the B.B.C. would like Vienna to take back, a non-starter. Vienna is not in a position to do so yet. Kiev reception is a big question and will have to be cranked into an antenna study that [redacted] is embarking upon. As it stands now, nobody can hear it well enough to say they've got a usable reception. 2) Kishinev reception, with B.B.C. interested in learning whatever happened to this coverage. We picked Dr. Niederhoffer's brains in Salzburg for a refresher on its history and Vienna will do a reception survey. It is possible that one early morning cast could be put on coverage but otherwise little can be done as the Romanian monitors are fully committed during the evening hours. 3) OPECNA coverage. B.B.C. has lost the informal feed of the full file and is now getting what they think is only a partial file from Broadcast House. They are not interested in it for their own purposes. [redacted] confirmed that Vienna can't get a wire feed from OPECNA, Headquarters does not want the coverage responsibility, and I have gone to Witherow to find out what he can do for us. In the year that we have been taking it none of the anticipated beefing up of this file has taken place and it is of small value as far as we can see but as a little rough diamond in our string of coverage we should probably try to hold on to it as best we can.

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[redacted] also gave me a rundown on the recruiting scene, which is full of the usual "Catch-22" security hazards and not too promising.

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The pending matters between us are the Kishinev survey, VCVC II, and some indications how his antenna study came out. We noted that the Kiev signal has to cross Vienna to get to the bureau, making the notion of a remote feed from the other side of the city attractive but perhaps impossible given the political considerations.

[redacted]

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[redacted] seems to be enjoying himself and is certainly doing an excellent job keeping up with [redacted] vagaries. He will be sending you a memorandum on the Federal Press and Information Office's "texts," which the DAILY REPORT seems reluctant to use and shouldn't be. (They are texts, transcriptions of the broadcasts, not simply the scripts.) He will also send you a summation of what he has been getting from West German television. All is not gloom on that front and we are getting some useful stuff from the ad hoc coverage we have been pressing for.

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It was a useful Winterreise, through snow from Vienna to Cologne, rain from Cologne to Victoria.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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cc: Chief, Austrian Bureau
Chief, Cologne Unit

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