

Comm. Sat. Acty

United States Department of State

Assistant Secretary of State
for Administration

Washington, D. C. 20520

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February 11, 1982

Dear

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It has recently come to my attention that FBIS has issued a RFP (#82-A-014) for a feasibility study regarding the possible use of the INTELSAT satellite systems to meet the growing communications needs of your agency. The RFP suggests that the proposed network might utilize satellite terminals located at U.S. embassy sites. -

While the due date for the RFP is close at hand, (February 12) I believe there are several issues which are of direct interest to the Department of State and deserve your immediate attention. Issues of particular interest regarding the RFP include, but are not limited to:

- The matter of reciprocity, i.e. if foreign governments will grant approval to a U.S. request to operate INTELSAT from U.S. embassies only on the basis of reciprocity would U.S. law allow the granting of reciprocity to foreign governments in reverse circumstances.
- Why did the RFP request potential bidders to seek quotations directly from INTELSAT, and not COMSAT?
- Could the proposed FBIS systems run afoul of foreign copyright laws?
- Given that the agency with primary responsibility for managing U.S. embassy real estate is the Department of State, the question arises as to why FBIS did not first consult with State before issuing its RFP?

Since the RFP has already raised unexpected inquiries outside the national security community (e.g., State was first informed of the RFP by COMSAT) we believe it would

Director, Foreign Broadcast
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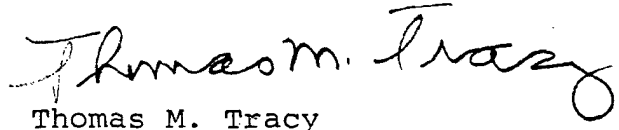
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be useful to go ahead with a State/FBIS meeting as soon as possible as recently discussed with you by Dennis Kux. With such a background the Department of State will be in a better position to advise FBIS on the overall appropriateness of the proposed system, at least in those policy areas where the Department has general competence, i.e., embassy real estate, reciprocity agreements and U.S. policy on dealings with INTELSTAT.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Tracy

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