



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-3012  
5 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Hong Kong Bureau -- September 1983

I. GENERAL

Typhoon Damage -- Typhoon Ellen, which struck Hong Kong on 12 September, left at least 10 people dead and many missing, injured and homeless. Twenty-six ships were grounded by winds gusting to 120 knots. Bureau employees and staff residences survived the typhoon intact, though the bureau suffered some damage when windows in the editorial area blew open. A large portion of the ceiling over the editorial desk fell down and desks, carpeting, typewriters, etc. suffered water damage.

Hong Kong Economy -- The Hong Kong dollar fell to a new low during the month of HK\$9.55 to U.S.\$1.00, breaking the so-called psychological barrier of HK\$8.00, a barrier recently thought impossible to breach. The skid was stopped when the Hong Kong Government intervened by raising the prime rate. The dollar fell back to HK\$7.89 but slowly resumed its rise and at the end of the month stood at HK\$8.50. Local comment unanimously contributes the weakness of the local currency to lack of confidence over the future of Hong Kong.

[redacted] -- An architect has been selected for the new bureau premises in [redacted] and interior construction work has started. The architect estimates five weeks to complete the new office. The bureau hopes to move in the second week of November.

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Wage Survey -- The State Department wage and classification survey team completed its survey at the end of the month. Section heads and local employees were briefed in separate meetings on the team's findings. The most significant outcome of the survey is the recommendation to pay local employees housing benefits. A final decision on this and the recommended wage increases should be forthcoming in November.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

Promotions -- Monitors [redacted] were promoted to FBN 8.

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## III. VISITS

To the Bureau:

1. On 12 September, IC Staff Director Rear Admiral Burkhalter and his executive assistant, Lt Cdr Dave Muller. They were given a general briefing on bureau operations, particularly the bureau's Beijing TV monitoring operation. They also had a lengthy discussion with chief monitor [redacted] on monitoring and Chinese developments in general. They were accompanied by Al Usack of the Consulate's Executive Staff. STAT

2. Carl Eikenberry, DLO, visited the bureau on 9 September to discuss bureau support in providing provincial radio tapes to the Defense Department's Chinese-language study program, which is held in Hong Kong in cooperation with the British military. Eikenberry was given a tour of the bureau and listened to samples of provincial radio programs. He will follow up his request after further study.

3. On 20 September, two Defense Department China analysts, Joni Kijima and Lt Marie Wzycak, from IPAC Hawaii. They were accompanied on the tour of the bureau by Col Jim Duffey, DLO.

4. On 23 September [redacted], visited the bureau to look at the Beijing TV monitoring operation. As a result of his visit, the bureau will provide him with videotapes of Deng Xiaoping, party chairman Hu Yaobang and Premier Zhao Ziyang. STAT

5. On 27 September Okinawa Bureau cruising monitor [redacted] visited the bureau briefly en route to a cruising survey in Bangladesh and Pakistan. STAT

From the Bureau:

1. Teletype supervisor [redacted] visited headquarters on the Foreign National Orientation Program 12-16 September. STAT

2. Deputy [redacted] visited DLO's military research division in the consulate for a briefing on their Beijing TV program. DLO compiles tapes of PLA activities and sends the material to various Defense Department consumers. Though DLO has its own source of videotape recordings, they noted that the tapes provided by FBIS are of much higher quality and have become their major source for video material. STAT

[redacted]

Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

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## Attachments:

A. Production Report

cc: Orig + 3 Hqs.  
C/Okinawa  
C/ Seoul

