

MNC-6141

03 September 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- August

I. GENERAL

A. Little progress was made in the construction of the new bureau this month as the building trade unions ceased work en masse 9-24 August in observance of an annual island-wide vacation period. Work has now resumed, and a new RECD engineer will be arriving shortly to take up the task of oversight.

In the interim, the bureau relocation team contacted local suppliers for price quotations on furnishings for the new facility.

B. The 3 August terrorist attacks on the British sovereign base at Akrotiri prompted another upswing in Embassy concern over security. Embassy and bureau employees were reminded yet again to observe good personal security practices and to promptly report any suspicious activity or problems.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau placed Nicosia television and radio on open-speaker watch following 3 August reports that the British base at Akrotiri had been the target of a "bomb attack." Bureau personnel kept Embassy officials apprised of all subsequent reportage until monitored Cypriot media were observed to conclude their broadcast day at normally scheduled times.

Arrangements were made to open the bureau early on 4 August to cover any early morning bulletins on the subject from Nicosia radio. For the rest of the month, the Embassy's RSO and other officers were kept informed of developments pertaining to the attack, including local press reports on the rumored "escape" of the assailants aboard an "Arab" airliner and the arrest of a Lebanese national in Larnaca for possession of illicit arms and ammunition. During police questioning, the man admitted to being a member of the pro-Khomeyni Hizballah organization. He claimed he was merely a courier responsible for transferring the weapons and ammunition between two Arab parties in Cyprus.

2. The Islamic Jihad organization issued statements twice this month, accompanied by photographs of American hostage David Jacobsen, in which it threatened to kill the U.S. hostages it holds unless its demands are met. These statements and photographs were published by the Beirut newspaper AL-NAHAR on 3 and 10 August. As the bureau has not received the Sunday editions of this paper from its local distribution agent on a

regular basis since 1 June, special arrangements were made to procure these two editions, with the help of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, in response to a Washington consumer's urgent interest in seeing the papers themselves. The papers were then delivered to Washington via commercial air courier.

3. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon (RFL), affiliated with the Christian Lebanese Forces, was placed on open-speaker watch on 10 August after it failed to carry its regularly scheduled morning newscasts. Beirut Domestic Service reported that RFL had "fallen" during fighting in East Beirut between supporters and opponents of Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman Samir Ja'Ja'. RFL resumed transmission that evening with a regularly scheduled newscast in which it reported on the results of the day's fighting. The bureau remained open to cover the radio until its normally scheduled sign-off.

4. On 6 August, Nicosia successfully completed its first phone patch of Tehran Domestic Persian material to London Bureau since the bureau's assumption of Tehran radio commitments formerly held by Gulf Bureau. Two subsequent phone patches of addresses delivered by Ayatollah Khomeyni were carried out on 24 and 30 August.

5. A newly inaugurated Beirut transmitter, the clandestine Voice of Truth, was sampled for a week and determined to be a small Christian station representing the views of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. As no unique reportage was observed, it was decided not to add the radio to regular coverage.

6. The Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon, the voice of former President Sulayman Franjiyah, apparently went off the air on 13 August and remained unheard until 18 August. Though no explanation of this interruption was forthcoming, bureau monitors noted an improvement in the radio's signal, suggesting the successful conclusion of maintenance work.

7. With the arrival in country of [redacted], the Turkish-language monitor from Gulf Bureau, the bureau resumed its coverage of the Turkish mainland press on 19 August. The advantages of having a fulltime monitor covering Turkey's papers, in contrast to the part-time efforts of [redacted] predecessor, were apparent in the heavier file and change of orientation from comment to hard news reportage from Turkish press sources. One immediate result was the BBC's request for priority filing of Ankara press coverage of Turkey's air and ground strikes across the Iraqi border against Kurdish rebels. The press reports were found to be considerably more detailed than radio reports.

Casts from Tehran International Service in Turkish and from two Soviet regionals, Baku Domestic in Azeri and Tashkent Domestic in Uzbek, were also added to coverage with [redacted] assumption of duties.

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C. Technical

1. A doublet antenna cut for 9.6 MHz and for 6.2 MHz was installed at the bureau's Pissouri remote site in an effort to improve reception of shortwave transmissions from Libya.

2. Application was made to the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority for permission to install a microwave relay dish atop CYTA's Electra House in Nicosia, for use in the primary communications link between the new bureau and the Embassy. In response, CYTA's general manager requested that approval of the project be pursued through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Embassy is following up on the issue with the Ministry on our behalf.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Turkish monitor [redacted] and Arabic monitor [redacted] Gulf Bureau transfers, arrived on 6 August and 27 August respectively to assume duties at Nicosia Bureau.

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2. Associate editor [redacted] left for England on private travel on 15 August. While there, she is to undertake one day's TDY at London Bureau for orientation.

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[redacted]

Bureau Chief
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report

Nicosia Bureau Production Report for August 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	231260
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	103190
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	831

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	9425.00 min.	22260.00 min.	117.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

AFGHANISTAN

*Kabul in English to South Asia	1640
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CHINA

Beijing in Persian to Iran	0
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CLANDESTINE (LEVANT)

(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic	18540
*(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English	140
*(Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian	1090
(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic	6480

CYPRUS

Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek	7110
Nicosia Domestic Service in English	130
*Nicosia Television Service in Greek	350
*Nicosia ALITHIA in Greek	1530
*Nicosia AFOGEVMATINI in Greek	380
Nicosia Cyprus MAIL in English	1780

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Nicosia ELEVETHEROTIPIA in Greek			730
Nicosia I SIMERINI in Greek			1120
Nicosia I SIMERINI tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
Nicosia KHARAVYI in Greek			1550
Nicosia KHARAVYI tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			930
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek			0
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
*Nicosia PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE in English			110
*Nicosia TA NEA in Greek			1420
*Nicosia THE CYPRUS WEEKLY in English			340
EGYPT			
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	9650		
*Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic	800		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		33870	
Cairo MENA in English		5510	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		14800	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	11430		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			440
Athens ELEVETHEROTIPIA in Greek			1680
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			250
Athens KIRIAKATI KI ELEVETHEROTIPIA in Greek			470

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			610
IRAN Tehran Domestic Service in Persian	18810		
IRAQ Baghdad in Persian to Iran	0		
LEBANON Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	29200		
*Beirut Domestic Service in English	220		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	26480		
*Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	110		
Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic	5790		
Beirut Ihdin Radio of Free & Unified Lebanon in Arabic	410		
Beirut AL_NAHAR in Arabic			2740
Beirut AL_SAFIR in Arabic			260
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			0
LIBYA Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	3750		
QATAR *Doha Domestic Service in Arabic	430		
SYRIA *Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic	180		

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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TURKEY			
Ankara YANKI in Turkish			0
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish			2380
Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish			0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish			530
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			4870
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish			1190
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish			1340

UNION OF SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

*Baku Domestic Service in Azeri	290		
*Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek	420		
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	730		
Moscow in Persian to Iran	5620		

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

*Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic	630		
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