

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET



SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

3-5991

NO.

DATE

December 1987

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

23 Jan

B

[Handwritten initials]

2.

3.

C/E&PS

26 Jan

I

4.

DD/FBIS

1/27

G

5.

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7.

PO/RA

1/28

Om

8.

SA/CD

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Ent

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C/AS

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C/AG

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13.

Admin Staff

PERS

8 Feb 17 Feb

[Handwritten initials]

14.

C/B&F

15.

~~D/FBIS~~

Exec. Reg.

[Handwritten initials]

5 January 1988
FBIS-3200-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- December 1987

I. GENERAL

1. The 60th birthday of Thailand's King Phumiphon Adunyadet on 5 December was marked by a month of spectacular events, the likes of which will probably never be seen in Thailand again. Hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country inundated Bangkok to honor their king, bringing traffic to a standstill for hours on end in the areas where the military parades, religious processions, ceremonial events, and banquets were held. All of the public and most of the private buildings were decked out in lights, while fantastic fireworks displays lit up the skies on three different nights, one of which lasted over an hour and was so magnificent that it made the 4th of July celebrations on the Mall look like a kid with a sparkler in comparison.

2. At the same time as the genuine outpouring of affection for the king was taking place, the heir apparent, Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, and his minor wife were attracting attention of a different sort. Anonymous leaflets were being distributed in public places throughout the kingdom denouncing the couple for their inappropriate behavior, i.e., the crown prince's "minor family" have been given extensive media publicity for the first time while his legal wife and child have been downplayed. By month's end the police and military still were not certain who was behind the leaflet campaign, although various reports attributed them to disgruntled university students unhappy over the awarding of a degree to the minor wife, anti-monarchists, a monk with mental problems, the Communist Party of Thailand, former radical students now living abroad, or any or all of the above.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The long-awaited meeting in France 2,3 December between Prince Norodom Sihanouk of the Coalition Government of

Democratic Kampuchea and Premier Hun Sen of the People's Republic of Kampuchea produced a spate of reportage/reaction from the Indochina and ASEAN countries. The first meeting between leaders of the two factions in nearly nine years led to the issuance of a joint communique and an agreement to hold two more meetings in the near future. However, as the prince is wont to do, he has changed his mind a number of times since then, with the latest word being that the two will meet again the end of January in France.

2. At the same time, Vietnam was holding the trial of 18 of 77 members of the resistance group, the National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam, who had been captured in Laos in August while on their way to Vietnam to set up a resistance base. More than 100 others were killed by Lao and Vietnamese forces. Vietnam chose 1-3 December for the trial so that reporters covering the troop withdrawal from Cambodia the end of November would be able to attend the trial as well. Among other things, it was charged that the United States organized the resistance group and that Thailand directly supported it by providing training camps in Thailand and weapons, as well as allowing a resistance radio to broadcast from Thai soil to incite rebellion in Vietnam. Thailand denied all of the charges. An interesting sidelight was that while Vietnam maintained that the leader of the resistance group, former vice commander of the South Vietnamese Navy Hoang Co Minh, had been killed in the fighting in Laos, BBC reported that someone purporting to be Hoang had called to say that he was alive and well and sipping orange juice in Florida.

3. The second session of the eighth Vietnamese National Assembly 23-29 December turned out to be a bust as far as coverage was concerned. With holiday leaves canceled, the seven-man Vietnamese Unit was at full strength to deal with the expected live coverage of the assembly's opening and the lengthy leadership speeches that would result. Meanwhile, the satellite cruisers out at Bang Ping were alert to intercept the expected passfeeds. It was all for naught. Vietnam obviously caught the Christmas spirit and decided to give the bureau monitors a break because it broadcast nothing of the assembly session live, limiting reportage to a few communiqués and brief reports on the days' proceedings. The unit is now standing down until the newspapers arrive, which are delayed due to the holidays.

4. The bureau's total publishable wordage for the year was 9,053,060, a 500,000 word increase over the 1986 record.

B. Communications

1. A meeting was held with embassy [redacted] to discuss the installation of their new microwave. Their request to install the microwave on the roof of the bureau has been approved, and installation will begin sometime in February. The bureau will benefit from this installation in two ways: it will

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replace the old Farinon microwave unit presently being used between the bureau and the embassy, and it will give the bureau direct access [redacted] to use as an altroute when it is completed.

finally!
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2. The bureau's communications circuit has been rerouted to Clark AFB to facilitate the bureau's future upgrade to 300 baud. We were informed that [redacted] does not have a circuit available that will handle our traffic at 300 baud. Since this changeover, our garbling problems cited in last month's report have disappeared--at least for the time being.

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C. Lateral Services

1. Following an immediate message from the embassy in Jakarta in which someone thought they had vaguely recalled a message from the CPSU to the Indonesian Communist Party some time back that had caused the Soviet Union some embarrassment, the bureau was able to come up with two items from the Moscow Indonesian beam--from 1981-82.

2. At the embassy Political Section's request, the Cambodian unit reviewed four Cambodian documents and selected two lengthy ones for processing on a time available basis.

3. At AG's request, the Vietnamese Unit began translating a series of articles marking the 15th anniversary of the Christmas B-52 raids on Hanoi during the Vietnam war.

4. At the Office of Training's request, Bang Ping provided six videotapes of such Thai programs as newscasts, panel discussions, documentaries, quiz shows, and sports.

D. Technical

1. The bureau received eight new Comscribe printers to replace the Okidata printers, which were not compatible with our communications circuit. Thus far, performance of the printers has been encouraging. In fact, a Comscribe printer was used in place of the laser printer at the editorial position when we ran out of laser toner. We like it so well we have decided to leave it there even though the toner has now arrived.

2. New Equipment:

Extel Comscribe printers, 8 each. SNS. 90347, 90366, 90355, 90369, 90348, 90364, 90349, and 90371.

E. Cruising

1. Quezon City TV RPN-9 transmitted live special

programs on the ASEAN summit 13-15 December from the 113E Palapa satellite. The station transmitted its Monday through Friday newscasts as scheduled, with no indications that broadcasts would be discontinued in light of an AFP story last month that RPN's satellite lease would be canceled.

2. Unscheduled TV feeds from Vietnam to Moscow were intercepted on the 80E Gorizont 23 and 24 December. FYI's and VSI's were done on the contents, which consisted of the activities of visiting KGB Chairman Chebrikov.

3. Afghan leader Najibullah's visit to Indochina was observed on the 80E Gorizont on 25, 29, and 30 December. The passfeeds originated from Vietnam and Cambodia.

III. ADMINISTRATION

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A. Personnel

1. Senior Editor received a 10-year service pin in recognition of his service with the U.S. Government.

2. The bureau this month finally received approval for an FBN pay raise of approximately 3 percent retroactive to 21 June 1987.

BERS

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Chief, Bangkok Bureau

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	829,140
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	238,050
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,834

	<u>BROAD-CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI-CATION</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	20,637 min.	22,135 min.	336.46 issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ROSET SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

INDIA

Delhi General Overseas Service in English	5,420
Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English	2,490
Delhi Domestic Service in English	40,930

INDONESIA

Jakarta ANTARA in English	11,030
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MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay	4,940
Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English	16,030

PHILIPPINES

Quezon City RPN 9 Television in English	5,420
Manila PNA in English	13,700

SINGAPORE

Unidentified Television Feed in English	3,010
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SRI LANKA

Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English	14,410
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	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>IV. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			
<u>AUSTRALIA</u>			
Melbourne Overseas Service in English	20,350		
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English			1,350
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English			0
Sydney THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English			0
<u>BANGLADESH</u>			
Dhaka Overseas Service in English	2,360		
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	25,050		
Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	1,090		
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English			2,010
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali			1,080
<u>BRUNEI</u>			
Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English			0
<u>BURMA</u>			
Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	7,530		
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			110
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese			0
Rangoon LOKTHA FYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese			0
Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese			0
<u>CAMBODIA</u>			
Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	24,950		
Phnom Penh SPK in English		16,300	
Phnom Penh SPK in French to KPL Vientiane		0	
Phnom Penh SPK in French		7,530	

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>CHINA</u>			
Beijing International Service in Bengali	0		
Beijing International Service in Burmese	750		
Beijing International Service in Indonesian	0		
Beijing International Service in Lao	1,070		
Beijing International Service in Thai	660		
Beijing in Cambodian to Cambodia	5,530		
Beijing in Hindi to India	0		
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	0		
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	0		
Beijing International Service in Vietnamese	340		
<u>CLANDESTINE</u>			
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	13,810		
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	0		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian	8,100		
(Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	2,990		
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese	3,570		
<u>HONG KONG</u>			
Hong Kong AFP in English		65,220	
<u>INDIA</u>			
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	5,420		
Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English	2,490		
Delhi Domestic Service in English	40,930		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		0	
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			4,820
Delhi PATRIOT in English			0
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English			5,270

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>INDIA</u> (continued)			
Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil			0
Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi			0
Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali			0
<u>INDONESIA</u>			
Jakarta International Service in English	670		
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	9,660		
Jakarta ANTARA in English		11,030	
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English			3,000
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			800
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian			490
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			350
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian			70
Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian			430
Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian			60
<u>LAOS</u>			
Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao	47,350		
Vientiane KPL in English		43,440	
Vientiane KPL in English to SPK Phnom Penh			0
Vientiane KPL in French to SPK Phnom Penh			0
Vientiane SPK in French to SPK Phnom Penh			0
Vientiane PASASON in Lao			3,750
Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao			0
<u>MALAYSIA</u>			
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	7,110		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English			0
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay			350

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>MALAYSIA</u> (continued)			
Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay	4,940		
Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English		16,030	
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English			0
Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English			0
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay			2,230
Kuala Lumpur BERITA MINGGU in Malay			1,010
Kuala Lumpur MINGGUAN MALAYSIA in Malay			0
Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay			0
<u>NEPAL</u>			
Kathmandu External Service in English	1,250		
Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English			150
<u>NEW ZEALAND</u>			
Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English			0
Wellington THE EVENING POST in English			0
<u>PAKISTAN</u>			
Islamabad Oversea Service in English	1,860		
Islamabad Domestic Service in English	6,210		
Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu	9,230		
Islamabad Oversea Service in Urdu	0		
Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English			5,690
Karachi DAWN in English			2,560
Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu			620
Lahore JANG in Urdu			1,220
Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu			0

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>PHILIPPINES</u>			
Quezon City RPN 9 Television in English	5,420		
Manila PNA in English		13,700	
<u>SINGAPORE</u>			
Singapore Domestic Service in English	3,320		
Unidentified Television Feed in English	3,010		
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English			1,400
Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English			2,340
<u>SRI LANKA</u>			
Colombo International Service in English	4,270		
Colombo Domestic Service in English	0		
Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil	1,720		
Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English		14,410	
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English			760
Colombo SUN in English			3,240
Colombo WEEKEND in English			0
Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil			270
<u>THAILAND</u>			
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	1,940		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	0		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	3,060		
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	2,670		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	7,890		
Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai	0		
Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai	1,750		
Bangkok TNA in English		630	
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English			24,220

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>THAILAND (continued)</u>			
Bangkok THE NATION in English			32,220
Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai			0
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai			0
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai			3,610
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai			0
Bangkok NAED NA in Thai			3,720
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			4,160
Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai			1,890
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			0
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			630
Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese			6,560
Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese			130
Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese			0
<u>UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</u>			
Moscow International Service in Tamil	1,100		
Moscow International Service in Vietnamese	630		
Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh	0		
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	0		
Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia	6,940		
Moscow in Hindi to India	860		
Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	3,200		
Moscow in Lao to Laos	0		
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	1,020		
Moscow in Urdu to India	0		
Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan	0		
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Indonesian	0		

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>			
London BBC World Service in English	1,360		
<u>VIETNAM</u>			
Hanoi International Service in English	9,620		
Hanoi International Service in Cambodian	0		
Hanoi International Service in Thai	960		
Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	109,700		
Hanoi VNA in English		76,990	
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			10,700
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			4,880
Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese			0
Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			0
Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese			0