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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- London Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO

DATE

STAT

July 1988

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/MOD

2.

3.

C/ESG

4.

5.

C/FED

6.

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C/ADD

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C/HED

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C/Computer Operations

12.

13.

14.

15.

Retain/Destroy

5 August 1988
FBIS-4422-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
FROM : Acting Chief, London Bureau, FBIS
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- London Bureau -- July 1988

I. GENERAL

1. The bureau enjoyed some relief on the monetary front when the dollar continued to hold its own against the pound at an ROE of \$1.70 for much of the month. This freed up some bureau funds for unfunded FY-89 projects, including a healthy start on the PMU furniture replacement program. The weather, unfortunately, did not offer such sunny prospects with England recording the wettest July in half a century.
2. The Monitoring Service has announced progress on plans for establishment of an Operations and Engineering Department which will consolidate all current engineering functions with the operational aspects of Reception Department, including the cruising and dish control functions. BBC Chief Engineer David Wilson will head up the new department when it is established.
3. On the BBC personnel front, Editor for News and Publications [redacted] returned to Caversham on 1 August following a 6-month rotational tour at Bush House.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The month began on an upbeat note with the conclusion of the long-awaited CPSU Conference and a congratulatory message from Acting Chief, Operations Group on the bureau handling of this major event in Soviet history.
2. The sigh of relief emitted by the bureau at the conclusion of the CPSU Conference proved to be premature when the month turned out to be the busiest July in bureau history. The 6 July downing of the Iranian airbus, Gorbachev's 11-14 July visit to Poland followed by the Warsaw Pact Summit, extensive coverage of the Supreme Soviet Presidium session on the NKAO situation, Gulf War developments and the Gorbachev speech at the 29 July CPSU Central Committee Plenum all contributed to an extremely heavy file of urgent traffic. Numerous party and government meetings in Yugoslavia to deal with the worsening relations among various ethnic groups added to the already heavy workload.

3. MWR writer [redacted] and company received a note of congratulations from AG Division Chief [redacted] for the "consistently high quality" of the Middle East and South Asia Review.

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B. Coverage

1. BBC lost Armenian capability on 12 July when its retired contract monitor terminated his ad hoc arrangement with the Monitoring Service to take a long-planned holiday. Azeri capability was also temporarily lost from 21 July through 28 August when the sole remaining Azeri linguist was scheduled for leave.
2. London/BBC assumed coverage of Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian and Tehran Domestic Service early morning casts from 29 July through 15 August during Nicosia's monitorial leave. Arrangements were made for Nicosia to feed the Tehran 0430 GMT newscast, which is not available on frequencies monitorable at Caversham.
3. In an attempt to cope with the increasing output from Soviet radio and TV as a result of the Gorbachev era and in the wake of the CPSU Conference resolution to expand live or recorded coverage of the deliberations of senior CPSU and national forums, BBC has identified 14 hours and 25 minutes of Moscow Domestic Service Class B/C programming to be relegated to irregular coverage only when weekly previews indicate something of interest may be carried.

C. Communications

1. The highlight of the month in the Communications Center was the installation of the London Commo Upgrade equipment the week of 18 July. Thanks to advance preparations by the Engineering Section led by [redacted] and operator training supervised by Communications Section Deputy Chief [redacted] the GE and Lockheed contractors working with FBIS personnel were able to complete the entire upgrade in 4 days. Bureau is now awaiting software modifications from Lockheed to resolve a time-consuming truncation problem affecting 4 to 5 percent of all outgoing wordage. All members of the Communications Center deserve a standing ovation for adapting to the installation disruptions and new procedures while maintaining a daily average output of 110,000 words during the week work was in progress.
2. Communications Section Deputy Chief [redacted] on 3 July assumed duties as systems manager for the bureau communications software. [redacted] has taken over [redacted] responsibility for the Communications Section portion of the Internet system.
3. Internet: The bureau Internet operators began regular 7-day operations on 2 July with the start of weekend feeds

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of all scheduled Soviet and West Europe TV transmissions. In addition to expanding regular operations, the bureau also provided Headquarters with a total of 21 hours of overnight feeds of Soviet TV at the request of the MOD TV Center. Bureau Internet operators were commended by Chief, MOD for their "excellent effort and close coordination" during the CPSU Conference.

D. Technical

1. Chief Engineer [] and his staff were deeply involved throughout the month in preparations for and installation of the London Commo Upgrade equipment and associated software. In addition to work on the actual system, [] also completed the wiring and switch box to handle WANG-produced Tabs and PMU traffic on the new system as well as developing and testing software for a modified queuing system for the same traffic. STAT
2. The bureau received the Cologne Unit surplus IBM XT, which will be converted to full 240V for use with the IDD system. Cologne Unit also passed on one U-Matic and one VHS VCR, both of which will be incorporated into the Internet system. The VHS recorder will give the bureau added flexibility to handle both VHS and U-Matic tapes. STAT
3. Islamabad: BBC resumed remote tuning of Islamabad feeds on 14 July after a frustrating several weeks of attempting to diagnose tuning problems. Fixes to the system included installation of a new Delta Remote Control Unit at Caversham, replacement of a line amplifier in Islamabad and installation of new line cabling by the Pakistani PTT.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. [] entered on duty as a part-time Administrative Assistant/Courier on 18 July, thus restoring a continuous flow of traffic between the London Admin Office and the bureau. STAT
2. PMU contract Russian translator [] resigned from contract employment effective 1 July. STAT
3. Chief, PMU began interviewing and testing candidates for a Hungarian monitor vacancy in Vienna. Meanwhile the Admin Staff has been involved in obtaining the necessary clearances for four Vienna TCN's offered positions as the result of an earlier recruiting campaign.
4. The four Pressfax operators were presented with Special Achievement Awards with cash emolument during a 29 July ceremony in the bureau chief's office. The awards were presented in recognition of their dedication, flexibility and professionalism over the past year in dealing with the long, irregular Pressfax

hours as well as expanded tasks related to West Europe satellite feeds.

- 5. Bureau editor [redacted] was promoted to GS-12 effective 3 July. STAT
- 6. Former PMU Russian linguist [redacted] who retired in 1977, passed away on 1 July. STAT
- 7. Islamabad: [redacted] entered on duty 1 August as the unit's third FSN employee. STAT

IV. VISITS

To the bureau: Headquarters analyst [redacted] on 12 July for briefing and orientation; Budget officer [redacted] on 13 July for bureau tour, pub lunch and resource discussions; [redacted] (ADD), [redacted] and [redacted] week of 18 July for London Commo Upgrade. STAT
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To Islamabad: Ambassador [redacted] heading a State Department inspection team, for discussions on unit operations. STAT

[redacted] STAT

Attachments

- cc: Chief, Austria Bureau
- Chief, Islamabad Unit
- Chief, Okinawa Bureau