

S-E-C-R-E-T

22 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs
FROM: Chief, FBIS
SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Castro "Interview": Appreciation was expressed by White House, National Security Council, and DD/I staff officers for the rapid translation of the first installment of the alleged Castro interview with a correspondent of Le Monde of Paris supplied by the London Bureau. This unusual press scrutiny operation was coordinated with FDD, the latter translating the second installment and publishing both parts as a special report after FBIS filed both parts on the Wire. [redacted]

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2. Task Force on Cuba: Special support was rendered the recently established Organization Task Force on Cuba in the form of London Bureau-supplied program summaries of the new Moscow broadcast for Russian citizens abroad beamed to Cuba. [redacted]

50X1

3. BBC Targets: Special BBC Monitoring Service interests in Southeast Asian and Arab expatriate materials, made known to FBIS Headquarters through the London Bureau, were outlined in a Headquarters memorandum to the field bureaus concerned. It is planned that similar expressions of special BBC interests will be passed on to the field in the future. [redacted]

50X1

4. Lateral Field Services: The consolidated list of lateral field services, based on submissions from the individual bureaus, will be distributed in late April. An addendum, based on individual reports from bureaus due in Headquarters the last week in September, will be issued in October. A significant increase in lateral services by several bureaus during the past year has been noted. East Coast Bureau listings, for example, increased by 35 percent including several recent additions to the list of recipients of the daily World Health Organization Epidemiological Bulletin--the Air Force Dispensary at Naha, Okinawa, becoming the 28th consumer for this service in early April. [redacted]

50X1

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Group 1
Excluded from Automatic down-
grading and declassification

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5. FBIS Wire Services: Copies of the revised chart of FBIS Wire Service outlets were distributed to FBIS components and to the OCI Watch Office. The new chart shows six machines at Langley, four at State, seven at USIA, five at the Pentagon, two at AEC, one at NSA, [redacted] one at CINCLANT Norfolk, one at SAC Omaha, one at Andrews AFB, one at the National Security Council, one at the White House Situation Room (with patchboard facilities to Camp David), one at Fort Ritchie, and one at East Coast Bureau. A request for another outlet is pending from the U.S. Navy Radio Station at Cheltenham, Maryland. [redacted]

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6. Soviet Leadership Studies:

a. A memorandum from the DD/I emphasized the current importance of the problem of leadership and succession in the Soviet Union, outlined measures for coordinating work on this problem in the DD/I area, and defined the FBIS role as a continuation of RPB's "reconstruction of the running account (of developments bearing on the leadership situation) from the past into the present." RPB was asked to compile its past studies on this subject into a volume for ready reference, and has begun work on this project. The Chief, Internal Affairs Section, RPB, was designated to represent FBIS at periodic meetings of officers responsible for analysis relevant to the leadership picture. [redacted]

50X1

b. Radio Propaganda Report RS.56, "Signs of Conflict in the Soviet Leadership Since Cuba," was given advance distribution to DD/I components engaged in study of the leadership situation. [redacted]

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c. Similar advance distribution was given the portion of Radio Propaganda Report CD.225, on the Soviet May Day slogans, which discussed the belated amendment of the slogan for Yugoslavia that reinstated the Yugoslavs as bona fide "socialists." The sequence of events surrounding the amendment of this slogan was interpreted as suggesting discord within the leadership over Khrushchev's Yugoslav policy. [redacted]

50X1

7. Radio Propaganda Report Commended: CD.223, "The Sino-Soviet Conflict from September 1962 to Mid-March 1963," was commended as a "superb job of synthesis and analysis...probably the best piece that is likely to be done on this material for some time to come" in a memorandum from Allen S. Whiting, Director of State's Office of Research and Analysis for Far East. [redacted]

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8. Special RFB Services: A report was prepared for USIA on Soviet radio comment charging U.S. racism during 1961, 1962, and the first quarter of 1963, pinpointing the events that drew the heaviest attention. The Department of State was given an index, updating a similar one prepared last June, of Khrushchev letters and messages to foreign heads of state over the past eight months. [REDACTED]

50X1

9. Daily Report Supplements: Two Daily Report Supplements were issued. The first, published 21 March, contained the speeches and related material from the 12th PZPR plenum. The second, published 28 March, comprised material on the fifth congress of the Bulgarian Fatherland Front. [REDACTED]

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10. World Reaction Report: A report on reaction to the 18-20 March meeting of President Kennedy and Central American Presidents in San Jose was published 22 March. [REDACTED]

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11. "White Book" Recipients: Two more congressmen were added to the list of recipients of the unclassified Daily Report, Seymour Halpern of New York and Edward Gurney of Florida, bringing total congressional recipients to 14 Senators, 9 Representatives, and 6 committees. [REDACTED]

50X1
50X1

12. Daily Report "Revamping": Development of equipment for electronic sensing of penciled changes in Daily Report copy has reached the stage of testing in conjunction with tape conversion units designed to permit the use of incoming teletype tape for Flexowriter offset mat production. It is expected that adequate adaptation of Flexowriter equipment will require several more weeks, however, after which a prototype of the mark sensor/tape converter/Flexowriter will be subjected to extensive operational tests by the Production Unit--providing the necessary funds become available. The quality of copy received from the field and the resultant integrity of incoming tape will have a strong bearing on the degree of success achieved with this type of equipment. Meanwhile, small sections of various Daily Report books have been offset printed to allow a wide variety of consumers to see the new format. Those that have seen it have expressed overwhelming approval. [REDACTED]

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13. Press Scrutiny: In March 88 percent of Daily Report pages were devoted to radio broadcast material and 12 percent to press scrutiny. [REDACTED]

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FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

14. "Operational Developments": BIS suspended publication of "Operational Developments in Foreign Broadcasting," in order to strengthen the Station and Program Notes as the primary source of information on weekly changes in foreign radio broadcasting. Studies by BIS of developments in foreign radio broadcasting, on its own initiative or demand, will be published [redacted]

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15. Increases in Foreign Broadcasting: As an example of the world-wide "explosion" taking place in foreign broadcasting, announcements monitored during March indicate that 22 countries are planning or have under construction 87 transmitters (AM, FM, and TV). Whereas in January 1961, FBIS and EBC covered 90 countries and 13 clandestine stations; in January 1963 this effort encompassed 115 countries and 16 clandestine stations. [redacted]

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16. Hong Kong Survey: Responses to the memorandum reporting results of the Hong Kong technical survey which was sent to a dozen offices in the intelligence community indicates a general feeling that year-around coverage of central-south China broadcasting stations would contribute significantly to intelligence on Communist China. [redacted]

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17. DCA Requests: Bureaus receiving requests from Defense Communications Agency (DCA) representatives for information on FBIS communications systems should coordinate with the Field Operations Staff before responding. [redacted]

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18. Emergency Outlet: The Air Force has authorized the West Coast Bureau to utilize Hamilton AFB communication facilities as an emergency outlet. [redacted]

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19. Interference Suppressors: QRL-2B interference suppressors, fabricated to meet specific FBIS requirements, were installed at the Tokyo, Okinawa, Mediterranean, Austrian, and German Bureaus during March. The Mediterranean and Austrian Bureaus report very favorable initial results. [redacted]

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ADMINISTRATION

20. Peace Corps: It is the policy of the U.S. Government that former members of the Peace Corps shall not be employed by the Organization. It will therefore serve no purpose to forward applications for employment from such persons from the field. [redacted]

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21. Longevity Step Increases: A Comptroller General decision, made after the new pay bill was implemented, provides that an employee who had received a longevity step increase after waiting more than three years could apply the extra time toward his next step increase. Thus, if an employee had waited five years to receive his first longevity increase, the extra two years would be applied toward his next step increase in the new pay scale. The decision did not change procedures for those who had not received their first longevity step increase in the old pay scale regardless of how long they had waited. [REDACTED]

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22. Advance Sick Leave: Requests for advance sick leave, whether by classified or foreign national personnel, have to be referred to the Director of Personnel for approval. Since this is a time-consuming process and supplementary requests are to be avoided if possible, Bureau Chiefs should initially seek approval for the maximum number of hours which may reasonably be required--within the prescribed limits. Each request must be accompanied by a doctor's certificate [REDACTED]

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23. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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EDITORIAL

1. Guatemala Coup Coverage: Coverage of the Guatemalan Army coup on Sunday, 31 March, was marked by excellent coordination between the field and Headquarters. After the story broke, the field bureaus, working through the FBIS Wire, swiftly ascertained their staffing and reception possibilities and were assigned coverage responsibilities, with Panama Bureau covering initially and being succeeded in turn by the West and East Coast Bureaus. Reporting was well ahead of the press services.

2. Names in Copy: Editors and monitors should not hesitate to indicate as "phonetic" or to bracket names which they have been unable to find in field bureau files. In the normal course of events, names which are rendered completely in the clear will not be checked in Headquarters unless the Headquarters editor knows or suspects that the name is not rendered properly.

3. Lengthy Titles: A disproportionate amount of space in copy is taken up by lengthy designations for officials in summaries and briefs. For example: the designation "Foreign Minister of Moronocco, Mr. Leslie Vladimir Constanta," can be rendered Moronocco Foreign Minister Constanta or, in those instances where the country is clear, just Foreign Minister Constanta.

ADMINISTRATION1. New EmployeesAssignment

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Secretary, Office of the Chief,
Radio Propaganda Branch

STAT

Editor, USSR & EE Section
Editorial Branch2. ReassignmentsFromTo

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Monitor
East Coast BureauEditor, ME/AF/WE/LA STAT.,
Editorial BranchEditor
Saigon BureauSenior Editor, Far East
Sect., Editorial Branch

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

[Redacted]

Editor
Editorial Branch

Editor
East Coast Bureau

STAT

3. Resignations

[Redacted]

From

Editor
Editorial Branch

STAT

[Redacted signature block]

STAT

ROGER G. SEELY