

The Intelligence Agency That Came into the Cold: FBIS and the Cold War

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The relationship between BBC Monitoring and FBIS relied on the principle of dividing the world for the purposes of efficient monitoring and acting as suppliers to one another of their work, with one organisation supplying the other with translated texts they had monitored and each re-editing the content for their specific audience.

The US Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) nearly missed the Cold War. This paper explains how that almost came about, then how FBIS grew in size and scope during the Cold War years, what its intelligence products were – primarily the FBIS Daily Report in its various parts and fascicles, the content of the Daily Reports (for it eventually grew into more than a single Report), the dissemination of the Daily Reports within and outside the American government, examples of FBIS successes and its ordinary but not necessarily insignificant translations and transcriptions, and the overlap and interaction between FBIS and the BBC Monitoring Service. Appendices provide data on the distribution of languages translated, by major languages; the number of Reports and “articles” included in the FBIS Daily Reports from 1941 to 1996; and other FBIS publications in addition to the Daily Reports.

FBIS’s Near Death Experiences

At the end of the Second World War, a great number of those US government agencies and offices, which had been created to respond to wartime needs and emergencies, were reduced in responsibility, reorganized for other purposes, or simply terminated. The Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service (FBMS), which had been created as a unit within the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by an Executive Order of President Franklin D Roosevelt in February 1941, found itself under several different masters. First it was assigned to the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department, then the Central Intelligence Group and finally to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) where it remains, though much altered, today and in fact since 2013 the Daily Report is no longer distributed outside the US government. With the defeat of the Axis forces behind them, President Truman and the Congress set about restructuring the War Department, the Department of the Navy, and the new independent Air Force into the Department of Defense by the passage of the National Security Act of 1947. During this process FBMS appeared under various different names until was given its eventual title the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) in 1965. Here is a brief and simplified chronology of the service in the post-Second World War period:

31 August 1945	Funding of FBMS was due to lapse by this date.
1 December 1945	Senate and House of Representatives agreed on a compromise that would effectively terminate FBMS on Dec. 31, 1945.
30 December 1945	State Department and other primary consumers of FBMS intelligence products objected strongly to what would have meant the end of the service. The State Department could not take it over for practical reasons (i.e. they had neither the signals hardware nor staff able to operate it).
12 February 1946	Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service, as FBIS was then called, was transferred to the Military Intelligence Division, G-2, War Department General Staff, by order of the Secretary of War. As a civilian bureau, FBIS did not fit comfortably in Military Intelligence despite the fact that its target list of subjects to be monitored had increased from 5 to 22.

- 5 August 1946 Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service is transferred to the newly created Central Intelligence Group (CIG), which succeeded the Second World War Office of Strategic Services.
- 31 October 1946 Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service renamed the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. The word “intelligence” was presumably reserved for Signals intelligence (SIGINT) and black-bag material.
- 31 December 1946 Foreign Broadcast Information Service was re-designated as the Foreign Broadcast Information Branch.
- 25 September 1947 Foreign Broadcast Information Branch transferred to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which was created under the 1947 National Security Act, and was assigned to its Directorate of Intelligence.
- 13 December 1950 Foreign Broadcast Information Branch re-designated Foreign Broadcast Information Division in the CIA.
- 1 July 1965 Foreign Broadcast Information Division transferred to the CIA Directorate of Science and Technology and given the title of Foreign Broadcast Information Service once again.

Throughout the remainder of its existence FBIS continued to experience inter-service control rivalries and repeated budgetary disputes (especially during the 1990s) but it always prevailed because the Congress believed that the “comprehensive open source collection, translation, and analytic effort is crucial to the [intelligence community’s] ability to maintain global coverage” and added that “careful scrutiny of ‘closed society’ media can also reveal valuable information on trends, new developments, and leadership plans.”¹

As the Cold War began to heat up in the late 1940s, FBIS staff, its listening stations around the world, and the production of its classified reports all began a steady increase in size and scope. As early as 1948, Roscoe Hillenkoeter, Director of Central Intelligence at the time, offered this positive assessment of the value of FBIS:

“80% of intelligence is derived from such prosaic sources as foreign books, magazines, technical and scientific surveys, commercial analysis, newspapers and radio broadcasts”²

FBIS Field Operations

Former FBIS Deputy Director J Niles Riddel summarized the field operations of FBIS in the following way:

“Our field offices are staffed by a mix of American and foreign national personnel and generally function as part of a sponsoring embassy, consulate, or military command. Importantly, they operate with the full knowledge and consent of the host government.

¹ United States Congress. House of Representatives. *Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 1998. House Report with Minority Views To Accompany H..R. 1775.* House Report 105-135, June 18, 1997, 23-24.

² United States Army. “Using the World’s Information Sources” *Army Information Digest* 3. Nov. 1948, 4 .

Foreign nationals with native fluency in the target language monitor broadcasts and scan the press, providing summaries to US staff officers who then select items for translation and subsequent transmittal to FBIS Headquarters and US Government consumers. Limited resources preclude us from translating everything we monitor. Rather, we select items for full translation which are responsive to the requirements of the Intelligence Community. In essence, we operate a "smart front end" to winnow down the information we provide our customers to that which is relevant to their expressed needs. This then is our modus operandi for field operations. It is clean, efficient, effective, and perhaps most importantly, from the perspective of our hosts, benign. While we are a part of the Intelligence Community our operations are overt and unclassified and enable us to gain and preserve access to data important to informed decision-making by US policymakers."³

Note that Riddel said that "the full knowledge of the host government" and not that the government or organization whose media was being collected and translated was informed.

FBIS media monitored

The classes of materials monitored by FBIS progressed from short wave radio (primarily in the Second World War) to all radio frequencies; and then to newspapers, magazines, journals, and government publications (starting about 1967) when the CIA combined its Foreign Documents Division (FDD) with FBIS. Television coverage started as early as 1966 and increased in the 1970s and beyond.

The English direct transcriptions, of which there was a sizeable number [see Appendix I], and the English translations from foreign languages, were organized by the FBIS editors into the following formats, which were from the early 1950s followed in the printed FBIS Daily Reports with counterparts in the BBC Monitoring Service's World News Digests and Summaries:

- TEXT: Verbatim text, translations into English from original languages or English full transcriptions = BBC Text
- EXCERPTS: Verbatim excerpts, translations into English from original languages or English transcriptions = BBC Excerpts
- SUMMARY: Summaries of transmissions or articles, written by FBIS editorial staff = BBC precis
- HIGHLIGHTS/REVIEWS: General articles written by FBIS staff as an overview of a number of topics = BBC "In Brief"
- SPEECHES: Text of speeches in English = BBC Speech
- INTERVIEWS: Text of conversations conducted by a reporters with governmental officials or other individuals, again in English.

Those easily extractable metadata elements were keyed and tagged by Readex in order to enhance full-text searching in the Readex digital FBIS Daily Reports. Readex, which was founded in 1949 as Readex Microprint, today is a division of NewsBank Inc., and has digitized and offers for sale the FBIS Daily Reports, the Joint Publications Research Reports, all of the publications of the US Congress from 1789-1994, and much more. The headers or "headlines" in most cases were created

³ Remarks at the First International Symposium "National Security and National Competiveness: Open Source Solutions" 2 December 1992. <http://fas.org/irp/fbis/riddel.html>

by FBIS editors. This was necessary because broadcasts seldom had titles or headlines and because the CIA needed controlled keyword-based titles to facilitate their own searching of the vast FBIS paper corpus. FBIS publications other than the Daily Reports, many of which were of highly restricted distribution, are briefly discussed in Appendix III.

The FBIS Daily Report grew from a single fascicle, issued five days a week, to a three-part fascicle divided into broad world regions, and then to a five-part regional fascicle which could amount to well over a hundred pages. From 1941 until 1968 it was called Foreign Radio Broadcasts with several variations on that name and then the FBIS Daily Report White Book. Finally on 26 March 1974 a notice appeared in that day's edition of the Daily Report notifying subscribers that:

“The FBIS White Book will cease publication with the issue of 29 March 1974. Since February 1947, the White Book (the regular Daily Report), has made available to nongovernmental readers a limited selection of the worldwide FBIS monitoring effort more comprehensively reflected in the area-oriented Daily Report volumes. Effective 1 April [1974] the eight FBIS Daily Report area volumes will be on sale to the public by subscription through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) of the US Department of Commerce.”

The eight area volumes available for public subscription were:

I	People's Republic of China
II	Eastern Europe
III	Soviet Union
IV	Asia & Pacific
V	Middle East & North Africa
VI	Latin America
VII	Western Europe
VIII	Sub-Saharan Africa

Subsequent reorganization of the Daily Reports regional and country coverage within those eight parts is somewhat complicated with only China, though its FBIS series title changed, and Latin America remaining fairly stable. In 1987 AAP (Asia & Pacific) series became EAS (East Asia). In 1987, MEA (Middle East & Africa) dropped Mid East and became AFR (Sub-Saharan Africa). The Middle East was included with South Asia, becoming NES (Near East & South Asia). In 1991, the Soviet Union Daily Report became the Central Eurasian Daily Report but the mnemonic remained SOV thus demonstrating not so much the staying power of superannuated American “Kremlinologists” but rather the desire for consistency in this category of such primary interest. Such examples give a small indication of the complexity of the acronym alterations and reorganization within and across the eight parts.

The BBC Monitoring Service's *Digest of World Broadcasts* was renamed the *Summary of World Broadcasts* in 1947 and, like FBIS though perhaps not so drastically, underwent changes in the name and coverage of its parts and subparts for the remainder of its history, until the paper product was replaced by an electronic publication in 2001.

Separation of the single FBIS Daily Report into eight regional Daily Reports to a degree reflects international political developments, the increase in the amount of material being monitored and translated, and perhaps even the desire on the part of the primary governmental clients of the Daily Report for more simplified and targeted organization.

Two other important changes occurred with the FBIS Daily Reports in 1974. The Reports became items in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) of the US Government Printing Office and

that meant copies of each Report could be distributed free of charge to libraries participating in the program. In the late 1980s, for example, that number amounted to more than 1500 college, university, public, and other libraries throughout the United States. Those copies were distributed through FDLP as microfiche copies rather than paper, for reasons of economy. Also, until 1974 the Daily Reports were reproduced from typescripts – sometimes within a single Report one can distinguish between Pica and Elite typewriter typefaces – with the text running across the whole page. However, FBIS then acquired the printing presses of the defunct *Washington Star* newspaper and began to print in two-column pages, a far more legible and professional looking periodical than the previous Reports. I believe a similar change, occurred with the BBC Monitoring Service's *Summary of World Broadcasts* in its change from a quasi-typescript on A4 paper to printed quarto pages.

Early Cold War Concerns

Concern about the aims of the Soviet Union mounted quickly in the months after the end of the Second World War, not only because of the expansion of their control of Eastern Europe, but also their developments in the field of atomic weapons. Here are several examples of the latter concern. First a report on the opinion of the Nobel Prize winning physicist Prof Manne Siegbahn on the atomic bomb:⁴

DAILY REPORT. FOREIGN RADIO BROADCASTS, FBIS-FRB-46-007 on 1946-01-10

RUSSIAN ATOM BOMB RUMOR 'FANTASTIC'

Stockholm, in English to North America: "The reports that the Russians have designed a new atomic bomb with terrific effect have been commented on by Sweden's foremost atomic research scientist and Nobel Prize winner, Professor **Manne** Siegbahn, who describes the announcement as 'fantastic'.

"The figures do not tally,' he says. 'The effects are said to be far more powerful than those of the American atomic bomb explosions, but the temperature is given as a couple of million degrees, which is of the same magnitude of that of the American bomb. The effects reported are so enormous that they can scarcely be explained as a result of splitting the atom. Effects of this magnitude might conceivably be obtained by the opposite of splitting the atom, and (explained) as a result of building up atoms, for instance, by making hydrogen atoms combine to form helium atoms. But not even such a process would be likely to be worth the price for the purpose,' declared the Professor in his statement." (Stockholm, in English to North America, Jan. 9, 1946, 10:00 a.m. EST) W

Similarly, as reported in an article from 28 November 1945, it became clear that the Atomic Bomb is "no longer solely the property of any one single state."⁵

⁴ United States. Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service. *Foreign Radio Broadcasts. European Section* No. 7. Jan. 10, 1946. P. M1

⁵ United States. Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service. *Foreign Radio Broadcasts. European Section*. Nov. 28, 1945. P. T3

DAILY REPORT. FOREIGN RADIO BROADCASTS, FBIS-FRB-45-285 on 1945-11-28

"No tales about the atomic **bomb** will influence the shaping of the international situation. The atomic **bomb** is no longer the property of any one single State. Atomic energy has now also been conquered by a State which is equally advanced in scientific, technical, and social progress, the Soviet Union.

"I am saying this to dismiss all silly rumors about a coming great war."
(Katowice, Polish Provisional Government Home Service, Nov. 27, 1945, 12:10 p.m. EST) L (Compare SOVIET SCIENTISTS FIND ATOMIC ENERGY on page Ua 1 of today's, Nov. 20, DAILY REPORT--Ed.)

An article from 17 January 1945, in the *Christian Science Monitor* quotes Prof Manne Siegbahn's statement on the "enormous size of the bomb" and thereby illustrates how some otherwise confidential FBIS reports were occasionally leaked to the press.⁶

Clandestine broadcast examples:

Of some 97,000 clandestine broadcasts recorded in the FBIS Daily Reports, most are anti-government transmissions. FBIS identified "clandestine broadcasts" in its metadata, for example see (*Clandestine*) *Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel*, FBIS-MEA-83-163 on 1983-08-22 and there are some 1673 other Black Cockerel broadcasts recorded in the FBIS Daily Reports. Sometimes in the clandestine broadcasts the transcriber or translator even notes "gunfire heard in the background." For example, see the following (*Clandestine*) *Voice of Palestine* item:⁷

[Answer] At about 1510.

[Question] How long did it last?

[Answer] It lasted until 1640.

[Question] Were you able to determine the type of planes which participated in the raid?

[Answer] Yes, they were of different types. There were Phantoms and perhaps other types of planes.

[Question] How many planes were there?

[Answer] The ones we saw raiding were four. However, my military estimate is that four planes raid and four others overfly them to cover them. The ones entrusted with bombing targets were four. That is, I estimate about 10 planes were in each raid.

[Question] You believe that all the planes which participated in the bombing over a period of 2 hours are about 30 to 40 planes?

[Answer] I estimate not less than 20 to 25 planes. [explosions **heard** in the background] It seems that the air force has started bombing again. We expect more raids because the Zionist enemy is known for his arrogance. We have taken all precautions to repulse the enemy. [shouts and sound of firing **heard** in the **background**]

[Question] Brother Adham, in your opinion, what is the reason behind these intensive and savage raids?

[Answer] It is clear that they want to bring the Palestinian revolution to its knees. At the same time, they want to defy our brother Syrians in Lebanon.

⁶ Christian Science Monitor. "Soviet Superbomb Reported" Jan. 17, 1945. P. 15

⁷ United States. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. *Daily Report. Middle East and Africa*. Washington, DC. May 29, 1981. P. A2

Next, however, consider this clandestine broadcast against the *legitimate* Czech government. The clandestine Radio Vltava, an organ of the occupying Soviet military forces, supported the so-called "temporary occupation" of Czechoslovakia by the Russians in 1968.⁸

RADIO VLTAVA COMMENT ON MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE

Radio Vltava (Clandestine) in Czech to Czechoslovakia 0420 GMT 7 Oct 68 L

[Excerpts] The new Moscow communique has been published in all Prague papers. This is some progress, particularly if we recall that the results of the deliberations in Cierna nad Tisou and Bratislava were not reported at all and the 26 August communique only 2 weeks later, and then only in RUDE PRAVO. The new communique confirms what Marxist-Leninists have always considered necessary: that at long last all measures have been taken to fulfill without delay the agreements mentioned.

It appears to us that of particular importance is the agreement of the two sides to negotiate and sign an agreement on the temporary deployment of allied forces in Czechoslovakia. One could quote the proverb: If you kick a dog, he is bound to bark.

And here follows Moscow's claim, under a typical as well as accurate propaganda heading: "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES SHOULD PAY FOR DAMAGE," that the damage to the Czech economy was caused by resistance from clandestine radio stations and other native organizations, rather than by the Soviet occupation.⁹

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES SHOULD PAY FOR DAMAGE

Moscow in English to the United Kingdom 1200 GMT 24 Sep 68 L

[Text] The Soviet Armed Forces newspaper RED STAR says that it is the counter-revolutionary forces that should pay for the damage caused to the Czechoslovak economy. The paper comments on the claims made by certain Czechoslovak publications and radio stations to the effect that the allied countries should pay material compensation. The newspaper MLADA FRONTA, for instance, says that the damage to Slovak industry due to the entry of the allied forces is estimated at 700 billion korunds.

RED STAR says this information was taken from the West German paper FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU. Damage to the Czechoslovak economy was caused by the counterrevolutionary forces. Clandestine radio stations and leaflets called on workers to put the factories out of operation, the paper says, to resort to sabotage, and even take up arms. Counterrevolutionary elements prevented workers from entering the factories. They spread rumors about the curfew to disorganize night shifts. There were no Soviet troops at any industrial establishments in Czechoslovakia, the newspaper stresses.

A Few FBIS Success Stories

According to J Niles Riddel again: "the first word of the August 1991 coup in the Soviet Union came in an FBIS-supplied report monitored from TASS advising that Gorbachev had been replaced by Gennadiy Yanayev."¹⁰

⁸ United States. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. *Daily Report*. Washington, DC. Oct. 8, 1968. P. D5

⁹ United States. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. *Daily Report*. Washington, DC. Sept. 25, 1968. P. A1

¹⁰ Riddel. Op.cit., 4

Overview of 'State of Emergency'

LD1908071491 Moscow TASS in English 0656 GMT
19 Aug 91

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS—In a decree made public in the Soviet Union today, Vice-President Gennadiy Yanayev announced that Mikhail Gorbachev is unable to perform his duties as national president for health reasons.

On the strength of Article 127, Clause 7, of the USSR Constitution, Yanayev, 54, assumed the duties of Soviet president from August 19, 1991.

The Soviet leadership today released a statement announcing the decision to impose a state of emergency in some parts of the USSR for a period of six months, in effect from 4:00 am Moscow time, August 19, 1991, and declaring that the Constitution and laws of the USSR take unconditional precedence throughout soviet territory.

To govern the country and exercise with efficiency state of emergency regulations, a decision has been adopted to set up a state committee for the state of emergency in the USSR.

With great, but surely unintended, irony, an editorial in East Germany's official party newspaper, *Neues Deutschland*, of 13 August 1979, on the eighteenth anniversary of the building of the Berlin Wall, proclaimed "Lack of insight into the real conditions and positions is dangerous in politics" and that proved to be exactly the case when the Berlin Wall fell eleven years later. Here is that "insightful" article as translated by FBIS:

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND COMMEMORATES BUILDING OF BERLIN WALL

AU161459 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 13 Aug 79 p 2 AU

[Editorial: "13 August 1961"]

[Text] August 13, 1961, the day on which the GDR secured its state border with West Berlin and strengthened the protection of the border with the FRG, will forever remain a memorable date. Especially this year, when we are approaching the GDR's 30th anniversary, we commemorate a day which plays such an important role in the history of our republic. Then, some conditions were clarified about which many an imperialist politician and other people had unclear or even adventurous perceptions. Lack of insight into the real conditions and positions is dangerous in politics. In those days the cold war waged against us by the imperialists in the FRG threatened to become hot. Our quick, wisely calculated action, supported by the Warsaw Pact states, was like a cold shower for hotheads. The clarity we created promoted discernment and commonsense. This was beneficial for peace and in the long term good for the process of detente in Europe.

In those days it was thought in Bonn that the time had come to bring the GDR under its jackboot. Everything possible was done in order to weaken our state, to "bleed white" its economy. A "war of nerves" was waged with the aim of bringing about an "explosion" and "entering through the Brandenburg Gate to the strains of music." All these are words from newspapers of the FRG and West Berlin, which they no longer want to acknowledge today. In those days in the expectant exhilaration of success, they talked too much, they saw everything coming. Therefore we closed the Brandenburg Gate and secured the borders. This made the whole revanchist operation plan come to pieces. Now it was clear to the whole world that no one could touch the GDR. The politicians in Bonn learned the limits of their power. This was a great success for peace.

In another area of the world, "FBIS analysts anticipated the February 1979 Chinese invasion of Vietnam by demonstrating that the language used in authoritative Chinese warnings to Vietnam had almost never been used except in instances such as the 1962 Chinese intrusions into India in which Beijing had actually used military force."¹¹ It would be possible, though somewhat laborious, to track

¹¹ Riddel. Op. cit., 28

the English translations of those Chinese warnings in the Daily Reports and attempt to identify the words used, but it would be far easier and more interesting to obtain the Analysis Report or Reports on this subject.

Furthermore, one cannot mention the success stories of FBIS without saying something about the Cuban missile Crisis of 1962. FBIS went too far in taking sole credit for breaking the critical news of 28 October 1962 of Soviet withdrawal to President Kennedy, that the Soviet Union would withdraw its missiles from Cuba.¹²

Here is the relevant passage from FBIS:

“The worldwide tension created by the Soviet Union's covert installation of missiles in Cuba eased dramatically on 28 October 1962 with Moscow's announcement that the missiles were being withdrawn. The announcement was contained in a message from Premier Khrushchev to President Kennedy. The first news of the Soviet decision to reach the president was an FBIS account of the message broadcast by Radio Moscow. The key paragraphs of the Khrushchev offer, as supplied to the White House by the FBIS Wire Service, read:

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1404 GMT on 28 October broadcasts a Khrushchev message to Kennedy. He declares: I received your message of 27 October and I am grateful for your appreciation of the responsibility you bear for world peace and security.

The Soviet Government has ordered the dismantling of bases and dispatch of the equipment to the USSR. A few days ago Havana was shelled, allegedly by Cuban emigres; yet someone must have armed them for this purpose. Even a British cargo ship was shelled. Cubans want to be the masters of their country. The threat of invasion has upset the Cuban people.

I wish to again state that the Soviet Government has offered Cuba only defensive weapons. I appreciate your assurance that the United States will not invade Cuba. Hence we have ordered our officers to stop building bases, to dismantle the equipment, and to send it back home. This can be done under U.N. supervision.

We must not allow the situation to deteriorate [but must] eliminate hotbeds of tension, and we must see to it that no other conflicts occur which might lead to a world nuclear war. . . .¹³

¹² Campbell, John. *Listening to the World: A Lecture*. London: British Broadcasting House, 1967,3-4.

¹³ United States Foreign Broadcast Information Service. *FBIS in Retrospect . 30 Years of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, 1941-1971*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 28.

In fact, "BBCM's [British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service] role in defusing the Cuban missile crisis has been well-documented, not least by FBIS/OSE [Open Source Enterprise is the successor as of 15 October 2015 to the Open Source Center, previously FBIS] who have publicly acknowledged on numerous occasions that they owed their success to BBCM's live monitoring of the Khrushchev address. It is the BBCM transcript that President Kennedy read, received via FBIS, and this highlight in the history of the partnership was recently celebrated with a painting given to BBCM depicting BBCM staff monitoring the address (painted from a BBCM-supplied photo of staff). So this isn't a case of competing claims to fame, but an illustration of how FBIS benefited from the partnership with BBCM, and of course internally in the US intelligence and government circles it would then claim this as its own success." [Personal communication to the author from BBC Monitoring Service Nov, 23, 2016.]

The importance of the radio as a means of rapid and direct communication between the two leaders during the crisis was emphasized in the president's reply to Khrushchev, which began:

"I am replying immediately to your message of 28 October, which was transmitted by radio, although I have not yet received the official text, because I attach tremendous significance to acting quickly with a view to solving the Cuban crisis."

Thus an international catastrophe was averted but Khrushchev's personal crisis two years later could not be averted. Here is the account, the FBIS text and introductory paragraph from *FBIS in Retrospect* of the TASS broadcast on Khrushchev of 15 October 1964:**No table of figures entries found.**¹⁴

"In October 1964 the reported removal of Khrushchev's photograph from Moscow decorations mounted to greet three returning cosmonauts signaled trouble in the Kremlin. Surprising a world grown accustomed to the ways of Communist Party leader Khrushchev, TASS on the 15th announced his retirement due to age and failing health:

Nikita Khrushchev has been released from the duties as first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Leonid Brezhnev has been elected first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Aleksey Kosygin has been appointed chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

It has been announced today that a plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee held on Wednesday, 14 October, considered Khrushchev's request to be relieved of his duties "in view of his advanced age and the deterioration of his health."

An official announcement about the plenum of the CPSU Central Committee which was made public reads:

¹⁴ United States Foreign Broadcast Information Service. *FBIS in Retrospect . 30 Years of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, 1941-1971*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. p. 30

"A plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee was held on 14 October. The plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee granted N. S. Khrushchev's request to be relieved of his duties as first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers in view of his advanced age and the deterioration of his health. The plenum of the CPSU Central Committee elected L. I. Brezhnev as first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee."

Finally, to cite only one more example of the events that FBIS tracked of the thousands of possible examples, Osama Bin Ladin's speeches were carefully monitored and translated by FBIS beginning in 1994:

**"Saudi Islamic Opposition Opens London Office
London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 1**

London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI-The Saudi Islamic opposition "Advice and Reform Commission" headed by Shaykh Usama Bin Ladin has announced the opening of an office in London.

The commission said in a statement signed by Shaykh Bin Ladin that the commission's shura council held a meeting last Monday [1 August] and decided to open the office in question and to appoint Khalid Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Fawwaz as its director."¹⁵

FBIS-BBC Cooperation

Post-war collaboration between BBC and FBIS is the subject of numerous meetings, memoranda, official exchanges and official treaties. Nonetheless, the BBC-FBIS relationship was a stepchild to the overarching United States and United Kingdom signals treaties. Of the many drafts of and amendments to those Agreements, the UKUSA Agreement, is one of the most important. The following top secret memorandum from 1 November 1945, gives a sense of the degree of cooperation between the United States and the United Kingdom.¹⁶

¹⁵ United States. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. *Daily Report. Near East and South Asia*. Washington, DC., 22

¹⁶ British Broadcasting Corporation. BBC Monitoring AHRC Network > 5. Material of general interest > BBCM staff memos

BRITISH-U.S. COMMUNICATION INTELLIGENCE AGREEMENT

1. Parties to the Agreement

The following agreement is made between the Army-Navy
Communication Intelligence Board (ANCI¹B) (representing the
U.S. State, Navy and War Departments and all other U.S.
Communication Intelligence authorities which may function)
and the London Signal Intelligence (SIGINT) Board (represent-
ing the Foreign Office, Admiralty, War Office, Air Ministry,
and all other British Empire Communication Intelligence²
authorities which may function).

As Jeffrey Richelson, an American University academic specializing in CIA history, observed:

Post-Second World War cooperation between the BBC Monitoring Service and the United States was formalized in 1947, as the result of an exchange of letters between the head of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service of the CIA's Office of Operations and the head of the BBC Monitoring Service. The basic provisions were noted in a 1950 document, the two-page 'FBIS-BBC Reciprocal Agreement, Basic Provisions.' The agreement divided the monitoring tasks among the small number of stations then operating, provided for FBIS personnel to be stationed at BBC headquarters to select material, and required FBIS to provide material to satisfy BBC requirements. It also provided for a joint FBIS-BBC Monitoring Service Committee."¹⁷

Nevertheless, the close relationship between the CIA and the BBC has not always been acknowledged. In a 1980 interview with the *New Statesman*, the then-director of BBC Monitoring, John Rae, said in answer to a question about FBIS's connection to CIA: "I've heard they're part of the CIA. I'm not curious about it." If Rae was not being disingenuous, he must have forgotten the clear admission of the BBC-CIA link in the *BBC Annual Report 1948-1949*:

"There is close cooperation between the BBC's Monitoring Service and its American counterpart, the Foreign Broadcast Information Service of the United States Central Intelligence Agency, and each of the two services maintained liaison units at each other's stations for the purposes of a full exchange of information."¹⁸

The diplomatic exchanges themselves, and certainly the rather large secondary literature, of which the Richelson citation above is but one instance, repeatedly make reference to the United States and Great Britain *dividing the world* for the purpose of monitoring efficiently the world's open source

¹⁷ Richelson, Jeffrey. *The U.S. Intelligence Community*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview, 1999. p. 307

¹⁸ Campbell, Duncan and Clive Thomas. "The BBC's trade secrets" *London: The New Statesman*, July 4, 1980, 14.

communications and publications. In spite of that, there is in fact some overlap and some differences between FBIS texts and BBC Monitoring Service texts. Although I do have access to the digitized FBIS Daily Reports corpus, I chose to rely on an examination of 100 or so BBC individual items in paper from the *Summary of World Broadcasts* in the holdings of the Library of Congress. Here is what became apparent from that ever so small comparison effort:

Same text translated in total by both agencies occasionally with small differences in English equivalent of foreign words or phrases.

Same text translated in whole by one agency but only in part, i.e., a summary or precis, by the other agency.

No overlap among texts but directly complementary texts translated.

Unique items of which surely there are hundreds of thousands, if not millions, which can be found only in FBIS or only in BBC.

Here are examples of the **Same** monitored text, first a FBIS one on the Voice of the Iraqi People.¹⁹

¹⁹ United States. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. *Daily Report. Foreign Radio Broadcasts*. Washington, DC. Jan. 24, 1964. p. C3

"Voice of the Iraqi People" Criticism of the Baghdad Rulers

"Voice of the Iraqi People" in Arabic 14.00 GMT 24.1.64

in FBIS

Excerpts of talk:

... It is known that the statement made by the US Deputy Under-Secretary of State two days ago regarding the situation in the Middle East represents insolent imperialist interference in the affairs of the region and open support for Israel's aggression against the Arab countries and their obvious rights...

What attitude did the Baghdad rulers adopt - those rulers who talk a great deal about Arabism, struggle, support for Palestine and the struggle against old and new imperialism? What was their attitude? A spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry made a feeble and trivial statement which reflected the weakness of the Baghdad rulers' attitude towards imperialism, their insolence and interference in Arab affairs, and even their buffoonery in connection with Palestine. The spokesman said that the Iraqi Foreign Minister had not officially read the statement, but that it had read about it in the newspapers. The spokesman affirmed that Iraq would carry out the Arab summit conference resolution stipulating that the Arab countries would base political and economic relations with States on their attitude towards the legitimate struggle against Zionist ambitions in our countries...

However, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman did not expose the American statement and its motives, talk about America's support for Israel and its aggression, condemn America's interference in our internal affairs, protest [words indistinct] by biased talk about Arab nationalism, avoid defining its duties in a disgraceful manner, and avoid urging the Arab countries to stand against the vanguard Soviet Union under the facade of what the US imperialists call resistance to Soviet infiltration in the region. He just brushed by everything in the insolent US statement. How can such an attitude be described? It is an attitude about which the least that can be said is that it is shameful.

And here is the BBC Iraqi text for comparison which is identical to the American version except for a few proper nouns²⁰

Official Iraqi Reply Scored

Voice of the Iraqi People (Clandestine) in Arabic to Iraq 1400 GMT
24 January 1964--M

(Excerpts) It is known that the statement made by the American deputy under secretary of state two days ago regarding a situation in the Middle East represents insolent imperialist interference in the affairs of the region and open support for Israel's aggression against the Arab countries and their obvious rights. What attitude did the Baghdad rulers adopt; these rulers who speak a great deal about Arabism, struggle, and support for Palestine and the struggle against the old and new imperialism? What was their attitude? A spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry made a feeble and trivial statement which reflected the weakness of the Baghdad rulers' attitude toward imperialism, their insolence and interference in Arab affairs, and even their buffoonery in connection with Palestine. The spokesman said that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has not officially read the statement, but that it had read about it in the newspapers. The spokesman affirmed that Iraq would carry out the Arab summit conference resolution stipulating that the Arab countries would base political and economic relations with states on their attitude toward the legitimate struggle against Zionist ambitions in our countries.

However, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman did not expose the American statement and its motives, talk about America's support for Israel and its aggression, condemn America's interference in our internal affairs, protest (several words indistinct) by biased talk about Arab nationalism, avoid defining its duties in a disgraceful manner, and avoid urging the Arab

Another pair of identical texts on the January 1964 oath of the President of Dahomey.²¹

²⁰ British Broadcasting Corporation. *Summary of World Broadcasts. Part IV, The Middle East and Africa*. Second Series No. 1464. 28 Jan. 1964. P. ME/1464/A/1

²¹ United States. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. Daily Report. Foreign Radio Broadcasts. Washington, DC. Jan. 29, 1964, I5

DAHOMEX

PRESIDENT APITHY TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

Cotonou Dahomey Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 25 January 1964--N

(Oath sworn by President Sourou-Migan Apithy, live)

(Text) Before the nations of the world, which witnessed the revolution of 28 October 1963, and before the people of Dahomey, who are the custodians of the national sovereignty, we, Sourou-Migan Apithy, president of the Dahomey Republic, elected in accordance with the laws of the republic, solemnly swear to respect and defend the constitution approved by the Dahomean people during the referendum of 5 January 1964. Before God and before the Dahomean people, we promise to fulfill with honor, selflessness, loyalty, and honesty the high functions entrusted to us and to relentlessly devote all our efforts to the defense and the safeguarding of the superior interests of the nation and to promote the common well-being of the fatherland.

ME/1444/B/1

should be passionately in favour of mutual well-being, have renewed spirit and, in accepting the powers to be conferred on them, not lose sight of the formidable demands or forget that, above all, they are servants of the people. Therefore, a loyal servant must always render an account of his administration. The new leaders will have no reason to fail, because failure of their policy will upset our fatherland.² Again, the political wisdom of our country has been manifested.

Our people, conscious of past errors and anxious to avoid the evils resulting from violence and intolerance, prepared themselves to elect a new team of representatives. There is no longer any possible doubt that the revolution was right and that the counter-revolutionaries were wrong. The people of Dahomey triumphed and their detractors failed. We are proud to give way to the eminent representatives chosen by the people. We can then proclaim with a triumphant voice that Dahomey has come out of its crisis. Henceforth we will no longer fear for Dahomey's independence, integrity and freedom.

The emotion we feel today is like that of a grand farewell. With the dawn of the second Republic, my sisters and brothers of Dahomey, let us have new strength and hearts filled with hope. I hope that the noble citizens who will henceforth guide our people will have the wisdom and strength of great builders. As for us, having accomplished as best we could the mission which we accepted, the time has come for us to return to the barracks and resume the military life which made us the men we are today. Let honour be given to the Dahomey Army, its officers, gendarmes and soldiers! Let double honour be given to those of them who died for the cause of our revolution! Let honour be given to our flag, which proudly flies and symbolises our living unity! Honour to the brave people of Dahomey! Honour to all those who saved our fatherland from danger! Honour to all the nations of the world who (re)join together so that hatred, division and misery may perish! Honour to all artisans of peace and to all the peoples who struggle so that Africa may be free! Honour to all those who have helped us so that Dahomey could rediscover the path of justice and a new lasting hope! Long live the Republic of Dahomey!

(b) Cotonou home service in French 09.00 GMT 25.1.64

(1) Text of oath sworn by President Apithy (live):

Before the nations of the world which witnessed the revolution of 28th October 1963, and before the people of Dahomey who are the custodians of the national sovereignty, we, Sourou-Migan Apithy, President of the Dahomey Republic elected in accordance with the laws of the Republic, solemnly swear to respect and defend the Constitution approved by the Dahomean people during the referendum of 5th January 1964. Before God and before the Dahomean people, we promise to fulfil with honour, selflessness, loyalty and honesty the high functions entrusted to us and relentlessly to devote all our efforts to the defence and the safeguarding of the higher interests of the nation and to promote the common well-being of the fatherland.

(11) Precis, with excerpts, of President Apithy's speech at swearing-in ceremony (live):

Citizens of Dahomey: I have just sworn an oath before you and before the world. By this gesture, I have just confirmed the 28th October revolution. It has now become an accomplished fact. It has entered into history forever. I am well aware of the heavy responsibilities which will henceforth be mine, but I am confident in the wisdom and capability of the Dahomean people, to whom alone

²² British Broadcasting Service. *Summary of World Broadcasts. Part IV. Middle East and Africa.* Second Series No. 1444. P. ME/1444/B/2

Next consider partial versus full text translations, first the American FBIS partial one on a speech by Vice President Ahomadegbe.²³ These differences are largely due to the editorial practices of FBIS and BBC Monitoring Service in preparing the raw transcripts for publication.

Ahomadegbe Sworn In

Cotonou Dahomey Domestic Service in French at 1615 GMT 25 January 1964--N

(Oath and speech by Vice President Ahomadegbe at swearing-in ceremony in Porto Novo, live)

(Summary) "Before the sovereign people, we, Justin Ahomadegbe (Tometin--phonetic), elected in accordance with the republic's laws, solemnly take the oath to respect the constitution which the people freely gave to themselves; to respect the spirit of the 28 October 1963 revolution; to serve and defend in all circumstances the interests of the nation; to do everything possible within our power to insure for our people more freedom, social justice, happiness and prosperity, and national cohesion and peace."

(Editor's note: After the oath-taking and swearing in of all the ministers in the new government, Ahomadegbe spoke as follows:)

And here is the fuller text in the BBC English translation.²⁴

BWB Text to ... and Africa

ME/1466/B/9

(c) Cotonou home service in French 16.15 GMT 25.1.64

Precis, with excerpts, of Ahomadegbe's speech (live) following the swearing-in of all Ministers of the new Government:

"Mr. Speaker of the National Assembly, Deputies, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: I do not know how to express to you the pride and joy I experience in being with you on the occasion of this solemn meeting of the first session of your legislature, which consecrates the definite end of a regime which has fallen in public esteem and which is henceforth dead forever, and which marks the rebirth of our young nation. On 28th October 1963, a popular explosion swept out and threw away a regime founded on the arbitrariness, injustice, corruption, abuse of trust and [word indistinct] of a handful of men whose sole concern was the triumph of their interests and who had great contempt for the essential needs of the working and peasant masses. Homage to our glorious army! Homage to its ingenious Chief, Col. Soglo."

Deputies, you are the offspring of a popular revolution and you will be, I am sure, the worthy continuators of this revolution. "It is my duty to present to you a balance sheet of our political programme so that the accomplishment of the great task binding on us may be possible and so that the results may be viable and lasting. We shall henceforth be answerable for achievements to the people." We must have the courage to look at what we are, what we want to be and what we want to do. Our minimum programme will enable us decisively to embark on the struggle to conquer misery, hunger, ignorance and underdevelopment.

"Our general internal policies in the economic, cultural and social fields should be inspired by our revolutionary principles. We have said that our evolution is a claim to more justice and well-being. It led to the massive adoption of our national Constitution, a guarantee of all fundamental liberties. As far as we are concerned, we solemnly promise to respect this Constitution in its spirit and form. We shall respect the popular sovereignty in its institutional manifestations. We shall without delay re-establish the general and municipal councils which were previously dissolved, giving them more power and autonomy so that the National Assembly and the Central Government may be free from regional problems. As for you - the elite of the

²³ United States. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. Daily Report. Foreign Radio Broadcasts. Washington, DC. Jan. 29, 1964, I5

²⁴ British Broadcasting Corporation. Summary of World Broadcasts. Part IV. Middle East and Africa. 30 Jan. 1964. p. ME/1466/B/9

Then another FBIS partial text.²⁵ Again, partial because of differences in editing the raw transcripts.

TOLERANCE OF GREEKS TO TURKS EXTOLLED

Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1730 GMT 27 January 1964--M

(Excerpts) It is unnecessary to go back to history to find characteristic examples of cohabitation and cooperation between Greeks and Turks. During the state of emergency, the Greeks were careful not to molest the Turks even though the Turks were all in the so-called auxiliary police force. Yet the fanatical section of the Turkish leadership has managed to create friction. Even during this period of friction, the tolerance of the Greeks has been such that the period of tension between the two communities ended long before the signing of the Zurich and London agreements. Unfortunately, however, these agreements included the seeds of division. While the Greek side attempted to convince the Turks to accept the abrogation of the clauses which are marked with danger, the fanatical section of the Turkish leadership took advantage of them in order to create the present tragic situation because it thought that in this way it could advance its plans for the partition of Cyprus.

The collapse of the southeastern wing of NATO would mean the collapse of the entire organization. We do not believe that it would be logical to sacrifice, truly sacrifice, four-fifths of the Cypriot population in order to preserve NATO instead of making a small minority conform to the principles of the United Nations, especially when minority rights are fully safeguarded. Cypriot Hellenism expects justice, and it knows that it enjoys the support of many peoples. In any case, it will not abandon its efforts no matter how many sacrifices are required; this is proclaimed at all points of the horizon.

²⁵ United States. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. *Daily Report. Foreign Radio Broadcasts.* Washington, DC. Jan. 28, 1964. p. K2

Again a much fuller version appears in the BBC Monitoring Service report.²⁶

C. GREECE AND TURKEY

Nicosia Radio Comment on the Cyprus Situation

Nicosia home service in Greek 17.30 GMT 27.1.64

Excerpts of commentary:

It is unnecessary to go back to history to find characteristic examples of living side by side and co-operation between Greeks and Turks... During the state of emergency the Greeks were careful not to molest the Turks even though the Turks were all in the so-called auxiliary police force. Yet the fanatical section of the Turkish leadership managed to create friction. Even during this period of friction, the tolerance of the Greeks was such that the period of tension between the two communities ended long before the signing of the Zurich and London agreements. Unfortunately, however, these agreements included the seeds of division. While the Greek side attempted to persuade the Turks to accept abrogation of the clauses marked with danger, the fanatical section of the Turkish leadership took advantage of them to create the present tragic situation because it thought that in this way it could advance its plans for the partition of Cyprus.

The Turkish plans are not only contrary to the Declaration of Human Rights and the historic and just cause of the Cypriot people as a whole, but are also opposed to the interests of the Turkish population because a small community cannot live by itself at a time when the whole world is becoming increasingly aware of the need for unity. The Turkish plans are also opposed to the conscience of all democratic peoples, who will not permit the minority to blackmail the majority.

We would like to refer specifically to British public opinion, which is reflected by the views of the three parties in the country - the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Parties. The views of the Conservative Party have not been officially announced because of the...
Paragraphs
Not in
F.B.B.

IN FBIS
FRB-64-019
on 26-01-28

²⁶ British Broadcasting Corporation. Summary of World Broadcasts. Part IV. Middle East and Africa. 29 Jan. 1964. p. ME/1465/C/1

In many other instances, however, the FBIS treatment is longer than its BBC counterpart. The following example on the long voyage of the S.S. Feng Ching, of which only the first page is shown, is five full pages long.²⁷ This too is often the result of the respective agencies tailoring their presentations to their primary audiences.

RED FLAG PRAISES LONG VOYAGE OF SS FENG CHING

Shanghai City Service in Mandarin 0000 GMT 1 Nov 74 B

[Excerpts of article by party branch of the SS Feng Ching: "A Proud Voyage of 32,000 Nautical Miles"--originally published in Issue No 11 of the 1974 RED FLAG journal]

[Text] On the eve of the 25th founding anniversary of the great People's Republic of China, our SS Feng Ching victoriously sailed back into the Shanghai harbor after completing a long voyage. Our ship fulfilled this task under the guidance of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and with the support and solicitude of the people of the motherland as well as the working class of Shanghai. The voyage took 150 days. The ship traveled 32,000 nautical miles and transported 22,000 tons of goods.

The SS Feng Ching is a 10,000-ton class oceangoing freighter designed and manufactured completely by our country and equipped from stem to stern with domestically manufactured equipment. On its maiden voyage to the Mediterranean Sea, it covered a total distance equal to one and a half times around the world. It sailed across the Pacific, the Indian and the Atlantic oceans, passed through seven straits, rounded the Cape of Good Hope twice, and crossed the equator four times. This is the first time in China's maritime history that a domestically manufactured 10,000-ton class ship has made the long voyage to Europe.

All comrades on board our SS Feng Ching are immensely proud and honored to have made this first voyage, which was a mission entrusted us by the party and the working class. This was not a normal long-distance voyage. Instead, it represented a fight in defense of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, and a test of the

BBC Monitoring Service offers only one paragraph on the same article.²⁸ This is still another example of transcript editing practices rather than an indication of deliberate suppression of information.

China's shipbuilding industry (FE/4688/1) An article in the November issue of the 'Red Flag', broadcast on 1st November by Shanghai radio, said that the recent voyage to Europe of the 10,000-ton freighter Feng Ching had been preceded by "a major debate" earlier this year. The article said that "all kinds of obstacles arising from the revisionist line" had prevented Chinese-built ships from sailing to the Mediterranean until now. Earlier this year, "when the masses could tolerate the situation no longer", the crew of the Feng Ching printed a big-character poster criticizing those who said that Chinese-made ships were not capable of making long voyages. Before the Feng Ching could sail, "some persons" said, it would be necessary to replace its radar, electronic compass and other equipment with foreign-made products. The crew had retaliated by insisting that the imported direction finder, UHF radio telephone and nylon ropes be replaced with Chinese ones. The Feng Ching's voyage of 32,000 nautical miles, the 'Red Flag' said, had opened a new page in China's shipbuilding industry. **

²⁷ United States. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. Daily Report. People's Republic of China. Washington, DC. Nov. 5, 1974. p. E1-E5

²⁸ British Broadcasting Corporation. Summary of World Broadcasts. Part 3: the Far East. 6 Nov. 1964. P. FE/4748/A/2

For texts which are complementary to each other, consider first the FBIS item in a Readex screen shot on the subject of the invasion of the Island of Lete.²⁹ BBC Monitoring Service and FBIS did indeed try hard not to duplicate each other's efforts, hence one finds in the two databases considerable complementarity.

DAHOMÉY

INVASION OF LETE ISLAND RULED OUT

Cotonou Dahomey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 5 February 1964--N

(Summary) A warm and enthusiastic welcome was reserved for Maj. Alphonse Alvey and his men returning from Malanville. The vice president of the republic and Gen. Christophe Soglo, accompanied by officers of the Dahomey armed forces and a crowd of people, led Major Alvey to Camp Gezo. Addressing the returned soldiers after General Soglo, Vice President Ahomadegbe said:

My dear friends: General Soglo has already told you everything, and I will only tire you by trying to repeat what he has already said. I can only tell you how proud the Dahomeans are that they have an army, an army worth its salt. You have shown that, being faithful to the traditions of our forefathers, we people of Dahomey will never allow a stranger to impose his rule on us. That is why today, as before, Camp Gezo merits its name. Gezo was a king, our king, and the liberator of Dahomey. He was the king who freed Dahomey from foreign rule, and you who have returned from Malanville have proved that you really are the descendants of that king, since you defended our soil against invasion.

²⁹ United States. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. *Daily Report. Foreign Radio Broadcasts*. Washington, DC. Feb. 10, 1964, I5

And here is the earlier BBC Monitoring Service version.³⁰

ME/1444/B/2

The Niger-Dahomey Dispute

Abidjan home service in French 20.00 GMT 2.1.63

FRB-64-028
Dahomey-Niger
complementary

Text of report:

Signs of relaxation appeared this evening in the relations between Dahomey and Niger. The Niger Government indicated this morning that it would agree to a meeting at the frontier between Niger's Minister of Public Works, Leopold Kaziende, and Dahomey's Minister of State. The acceptance was transmitted by the French Embassy and the Dahomey provisional Government immediately announced its approval.

It is learned from Niamey that road traffic has been resumed on both sides of the frontier. Yesterday six Niger trucks crossed the frontier from Dahomey and arrived at Gaya. Four of them immediately embarked Dahomey repatriates for Malanville. It is nevertheless noted in Cotonou that the Presidency has declared that it has not been officially informed of the resumption of road traffic between Niger and Dahomey. This is the reason why a mission of Dahomey Ministers of State left Cotonou for Malanville this morning to contact Niger's Minister of Public Works on the Dahomey-Niger frontier. They are expected to discuss the immediate repatriation of refugees from Gaya.

Indeed, one of Col. Soglo's essential preoccupations is the fate of the 3,000 Dahomey nationals who have been held in Gaya, near the frontier, without medical care, water or food for two weeks. It was learned late this evening that Col. Soglo was to go tomorrow to Malanville to visit the Niger repatriates. After Malanville he will meet the population of the North-East and North-West on Friday afternoon and Saturday. This afternoon Col. Soglo received at the Palace of the Republic the Bishop of Niamey, who came to inform him of the exact circumstances of the Dahomey refugees camped at Gaya. The Archbishop of Cotonou was also present.

As regards Dahomey's charges against Niger in the Security Council, the news

Finally, a way to determine which of at least some of the texts in the FBIS Daily Reports may have originated from the BBC Monitoring Service operations is to look at the spelling of the words. For example, there are 853 occurrences of the words "motorway" and "motorways" in the FBIS Daily Reports but no American would ever use the word "motorway"; so there may be several possible explanations for this:

- a) if the text containing "motorway" was a transcription from a broadcast in English, it would simply mean the speaker had learned British English;
- b) if the text, however, was a translation, especially a translation during the first decade of the existence of FBIS, then it likely would have been translated by a British citizen.

In contrast to "motorway," the American word "highway" [singular and plural] is found some 39,222 times. Similarly with "lorry" (1048 instances) versus "truck" (16,019 instances admittedly without distinguishing the noun from the verb), "honour" (25,028) versus "honor" (134,065), and "maize" (4420) versus "corn" (16,860) – these are only a few examples. Working with the massive digital corpora of the Daily Reports and the Summary of World Broadcasts, one could conduct some more extensive and sophisticated comparative searches. However, even given those differences there remains the decision of the respective agencies' editors to normalize things like spelling.

³⁰ British Broadcasting Corporation. *Summary of World Broadcasts. Part IV. Middle East and Africa.* Second Series No. 1444. 4 Jan. 1964. P. ME/1444/B/2

Further FBIS Testimonials:

“While radio broadcast monitoring is overt intelligence collection, it is a technically complex and costly undertaking. By roughly dividing the world between them and exchanging the materials recorded the US and Great Britain have always saved themselves a great deal of money and trouble.”³¹

“Michael Scheuer, the former head of the CIA's special bin Laden unit, said he had long believed that ‘90 percent of what you need to know comes from open-source intelligence.’ He considered FBIS to be ‘the crown jewel of the American intelligence community,’ though he said it was perpetually short of funds and personnel, and often focused on low-priority tasks such as extensive updates on Northern Ireland.”³²

Finally, here are the remarks by Stephen Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists on FBIS and its successor:

“Beginning in 1974, the US intelligence community provided the public with a broad selection of foreign news reports, updated daily. These were collected and translated by the Central Intelligence Agency’s Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), which was reconstituted in 2004 as the Open Source Center (OSC).

But the CIA has now terminated public access to those news reports, as of December 31. The Open Source Center cut off its feed to the National Technical Information Service’s World News Connection, which was the conduit for public access to these materials (through paid subscriptions).

Translation of foreign news reports had been one of the few direct services that US intelligence agencies offered to the American public. Many journalists, scholars and researchers benefited from it, and citations to old FBIS translations can be found in innumerable journal articles and dissertations. The utility of this public service was diminished somewhat in recent years by copyright constraints on publication. But it remained a valuable if eclectic source of alternative perspectives on regional and international affairs in a searchable global database that extended across decades. Now it’s over.

Of course, the CIA will continue to collect and to translate foreign news reports at its Open Source Center. It just won’t permit the public to access them.

CIA spokesman Christopher White explained: ‘The Open Source Center (OSC) remains committed to its mission of acquiring, analyzing, and disseminating open source information within the US government. As technology evolves rapidly, the open source feed of information to the National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce, has become outdated and it would be cost prohibitive to update this feed. In addition, publicly

³¹ Cline, Ray. *The CIA under Reagan, Bush and Casey*. Washington, DC: Acropolis Books, 1981, p.189.

³² Glasser, Susan B. “Probing galaxies of data for nuggets: FBIS is overhauled and rolled out to mine the web’s open-source information lode” *Washington Post*. Washington, DC: Nov. 25, 2005. P. A35.

available open source information and machine translation capabilities are now readily available to individuals on the Internet.”³³

FBIS from Open Source Center to Closed Source

In spite of numerous testimonials like those above in support of World News Connection, the new name of the FBIS Daily Report product, it came to its end, at least for the public and research communities at large, in this way.

By the latter half of 1996, FBIS had terminated the distribution of paper copies of the Daily Report to libraries and all other customers and migrated the data coverage to CD-ROM, at first managed by NTIS and then licensed to DIALOG, an information company part of Lockheed, the giant defense contractor, under the name World News Connection. Subscriptions were sold by DIALOG to the CD-ROM with a portion of the proceeds presumably going to NTIS and FBIS. In the meantime, FBIS itself was reorganized within the CIA in what was named the Open Source Center on Nov. 1, 2005, operating out of CIA facilities in Reston, Virginia about 13 miles from the main CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. In 2008, DIALOG was sold to ProQuest, a digital company which had been the old University Microfilms Corporation. But the story does not happily end there. Disregarding objection from the library and research community, the news media, and other interested parties, the Open Source Center decided to terminate all public, i.e. non-US government access to the FBIS Daily Report and other FBIS [i.e., Open Source] products, on 31 December 2013. On Oct. 15, 2015, the Open Source Center was renamed the Open Source Enterprise.

³³ Aftergood, Stephen. “CIA cuts off public access to its translated news reports” Federation of American Scientists. *Secrecy News*. 8 Jan. 2014. <http://fas.org/blogs/secrecy/2014/01/fbis-wnc/>

Appendix I

FBIS Languages

Of the 77 languages from which FBIS “articles” were transcribed or translated and published in the *FBIS Daily Report*, the table below shows the number of “articles” by the *major languages* covered, 1941-1996. The number of languages translated varied from year to year, for example in the period 1950-1952 there were only 25 items translated from Mongolian, 3 items from Estonian and none from Serbian. In the digitized database one could track the interest, or at least the FBIS interest, in any country by selecting its language for any span of days, months, or years and perform another search on English language from that country for the same time period to retrieve the total items for any time period.

English	1,826,476
Spanish	454,072
Arabic	393,032
Russian	343,757
German	177,985
French	130,545
Mandarin	130,246
Chinese	120,669
Hebrew	87,781
Serbo-Croatian	87,689
Portuguese	83,256
Persian	58,095
Greek	54,806
Turkish	54,403
Korean	54,341
Polish	50,160
Japanese	48,746
Czech	46,662
Vietnamese	45,703
Hungarian	33,239
Bulgarian	31,455
Cambodian	26,403
Indonesian	22,373
Slovak	21,740
Romanian	20,607
Thai	18,835
Lao	14,179
Ukrainian	13,065
Urdu	13,326
Albanian	13,043
Burmese	11,963
Swedish	10,916
Finnish	10,014
Dutch	7501
Pashto	5994
Amharic	5764
Norwegian	5453
Cantonese	4670
Danish	4662
Lithuanian	4452

Slovene	4066
Afrikaans	3744
Swahili	3482
Estonian	2123
Serbian	1805

Total = 4,563,398 items of which 2,736,922 are translations.

Appendix II

Size of the Readex Digital FBIS Daily Reports database

	Reports	Articles
1941-1974	9505	1,903,278
8-part series 1974-1996		
1	5885	1,033,595
2	5704	693,811
3	5722	878,840
4	5649	957,896
5	5780	686,263
6	5758	829,010
7	6197	1,062,475
8	5753	524,918
Annexes	6950	132,313
TOTALS	62,903	8,703,399

NOTE: The total number of articles greatly exceeds the total number of items in the major languages list for several reasons: primarily because in the earliest years of FBIS the language, considered obvious, was not always given; secondarily because the numerous highlights/summaries did not always identify the original language; and finally because the minor or infrequently translated languages [e.g., Quecuha] are not in the Major Languages list above.

APPENDIX III

FBIS publications in addition to the *regular* Daily Report

FBIS Daily Report Supplements: irregular and infrequent periodicity containing, for example, proceedings of Communist Party conferences. In the Readex digital FBIS Daily Reports.

FBIS Annexes: these translations, similar to the regular Daily Report, were “For Official Use Only” and were not distributed to the Federal Depository libraries nor sold to customers. The Annexes were borrowed by Readex from the Library of Congress and are included in the Readex digital FBIS Daily Reports.

FBIS Analysis Reports: these reports represent the first level of internal CIA evaluation of material contained in the Daily Reports and supplemented by other sources. For a time they were made available through NTIS but Ronald Reagan’s director of the CIA, William Casey, ended their distribution outside the intelligence community.

Radio Stations of the World: a compilation of radio station name, call letters, location, frequencies etc. of quarterly and other periodicity.

Passenger List Reports: internal CIA reports tracking arrivals of diplomats and other officials. For example, in one report I examined at the National Archives, the name and rank of each person following Leonid Brezhnev as he descended from his plane at Cairo airport as well as the order, name, and rank of the Egyptian officials greeting him. [The “Arrivals and Departures” section in some issues of the Summary of World Broadcasts are, though published, far less detailed.]

FBIS Media Guides: organized by country, these publications provide information on the political affiliation of newspapers and radio or television stations, editors names, party affiliation or political slant etc.

FBIS Trends: regular policy reports on international developments.

FBIS Memoranda Series: special studies.

Dictionaries, glossaries and other research aids: published in conjunction with the FBIS sister agency the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), also a CIA operation but operating out of the Department of Commerce.

No Uncertain Terms: internal newsletter for FBIS and JPRS staff on specialized vocabularies, translation problems, etc.

APPENDIX IV

FBIS Full-text searching and Keyed Metadata Problems

Full-text: because of the compromised quality of the reprographically produced Daily Reports, especially in the early years of the publications, broken or blunted typewriter keys created images which sometimes cause serious problems for the OCR program used to produce the searchable text from the page images. Damaged pages, though exceedingly rare, can also constitute problems.

Keyed Metadata: like the broken or blunted typewriter keys affecting the accuracy of OCR output, the Metadata input staff, not always proficient in English, sometimes had problems reading the title or headline of the digitized entries.

“WETO RIGHT IS BASIC UN PRINCIPLE” FBIS-FRB-46-231 *on* 1946-11-20 should of course be “VETO RIGHT...”

“BALSOH PLAN ALMS AT U.S. ATOM CONTROL” FBIS-FRB-46-246 *on* 1946-12-11 should of course be “BARUCH PLAN AIMS...”

“NASIS MUST NOT HEED RED PROPAGANDA” FBIS-FRB-45-097 *on* 1945-04-23 should of course be “Nazis...”

“WASTER ULBRICHT INTERVIEW WITH HEARST” FBIS-FRB-58-086 *on* 1958-05-02 should of course be “WALTER ULBRICHT...”

“BRC MAY AWARD PRIZE FOR ‘PROTOCOL M’” FBIS-FRB-48-229 *on* 1948-01-20 should of course be “BBC...”

Date Errors: Given the volume of the material processed by FBIS editors every day of the week, it is not surprising, especially during the typescript period stretching from 1941 to 1974, that dates sometimes would be incorrectly typed. One finds dates both antedating and postdating the existence of FBIS. Admittedly in the frame of the whole project the number of items incorrectly dated before 1941 and after 1996 is small.