



## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

SECRET

TO: S/S - L. Paul Bremer III

FROM: AF - Lannon Walker

SUBJECT: Department Circular 175: Request Authority to  
Enter into FBIS Agreement with the Government of  
Swaziland

REF: Mbabane 913

Summary:

Authority is requested to negotiate and conclude an agreement with the Government of Swaziland, along the lines of the attached proposed text, to establish a bureau of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) in the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Analysis of Issue:

The proposed FBIS bureau in Swaziland is designed to improve political and economic reporting on Southern Africa in response to the needs of U.S. foreign affairs analysts and policymakers. FBIS has a bureau in the Ivory Coast, which covers most of West Africa, and the BBC, with which we have a reciprocal agreement to share our products, maintains monitoring operations in Kenya (for East Africa and the Horn) and in Malawi, the latter being a small operation with restricted operating hours and communications. The product of the BBC Malawi operation, while useful, does not fully meet the requirements of U.S. consumers concerned with southern African affairs.

The proposed Swaziland bureau would have the capability to monitor public radio and press agency transmissions and the newspapers and journals of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. English, Portuguese, French, Afrikaans, and Malagasy material would be covered.

The bureau would be staffed by four Americans and 10-15 foreign nationals. To the extent possible, foreign nationals would be hired locally, but in instances where linguistic or technical capabilities are not available locally, some employees would have to be recruited from outside Swaziland. The bureau would operate seven days a week with day and evening shifts.

State Dept. review completed

SECRET

OS 04/10/01 (Walker, Lannon)

SECRET

-2-

FBIS' affiliation with CIA is a matter of public record and was made known to Deputy Prime Minister Nsibandze in March 1979. FBIS does not publicize its affiliation. FBIS now operates in 14 countries, including Ivory Coast, Cyprus and Panama.

The extension will not lead to environmental impacts either within or beyond the U.S. calling for further consideration under the National Environmental Policy Act, Executive Order 12114 on Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions or the Department's environmental review regulation and procedures.

Recommendation:

That you authorize negotiations and conclusion of an agreement along the lines of the attached text subject to approval of changes by the Bureau of African Affairs and the Office of the Legal Adviser.

Drafted: AF/S:CHanson:mo  
4/20/81 x20916

Cleared: AF:HEHoran

AF/S:DSimpson

L/AF:NEly

L/T: CWilson

FBIS:

H:JMorton

25X1

SECRET

GS 04/10/01 (Walker, Lannon)