

APRIL 1989

Only one report was received this month: **Jim YOUNG** (Wrightwood CA) called with information, which he received directly from the station manager via telephone, about the new SWBC outlet on Tonga. Here's a paraphrase of what Jim told us:

On 2/28, Tonga Broadcasting Commission (TBC) began operating on 5030 kHz relaying its MW station, A3Z (1017 kHz). On SW, they're running a 1-kw Kenwood transmitter to a simple dipole antenna. The SW service is intended mainly for outlying islands not well covered by the MW signal.

Jim first heard them 3/6 and again 3/20, phoned the station (Jim's phone bills must rival the gross national product of Tonga), gave full particulars of his reception to Station Manager S. Tavake Fusimalohi and subsequently received the station's first verie to a North American DXer.

Jim isn't sure of the complete operating schedule, although they're known to be on every night except Sunday (UTC) and to sign off at 1000. (The MW station schedule is 1800-1000.) He finds reception best around 0600-0700 if R. Impacto isn't blocking the channel; a particularly good time has been Sunday mornings local, when Impacto tends to sign off early. Although most programming is in Tongan, the station does relay R. Australia's news in English at 0900—and the feed audio is actually better and more readable than local audio.

Jim usually finds the signal to be "about one-hundredth as strong as Solomons on 5020," which certainly isn't good news for those of us a bit farther away and with more modest DXing setups! He also observes that the station is sometimes absent because of transmitter problems.

According to Mr. Fusimalohi (who is friendly and, along with the rest of his staff, speaks good English), the station has no QSL cards yet but will verify correct reports by letter. The mailing address is Tonga Broadcasting Commission, POB 36, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

The rest of this issue is devoted to recent items from your editor's "DX Diary."

ALGERIA: RTA — Has reactivated **6145** (formerly in use about five-or-so years ago). Noted from around 0330 with Mideast music; at 0400 usual "V" pips, then Arabic ID finally deciphered as "*Idha' at al-jazairiyya.*" Strong but badly distorted (3/30+)

CAMEROON: CRTV, Garoua — Currently on **7240**, rather than 5010, to daily s/off a few minutes after 2300. First noted 3/25 from 2209 in French with fast-paced program of highlife songs and other African pops; lots of siren-type "stingers." Closed down after typically lame rendition of national anthem. Weak; low speech audio.

CHINA: CPBS-1 — On **6125** from around 2150 with Chinese talk and music; at 2200 "5+1" pips and

into presumed news; weak at tune-in, out by 2230. Also noted on parallels 6750 (poor/fair) and 7935 (fair/good). (4/3+) In-band CPBS outlets tend to be rather a rarity in these parts. • **Yünnan-1 PBS** — On **4760**, presumed this one from 2302 with woman and man in Chinese (probably CPBS news relay); barely readable through co-channel ute. Gone at 2310 recheck. (4/5)

(TENTATIVE)**DJIBOUTI: RTD** — On **4780**, most likely this on 4/8 at 2137 with Mideast vocal and again on 4/9 with perorations in Arabic. Very little copy through a deadly combination of CW, a numbers station and another random ute plaguing the channel. In past years, have heard Djibouti running late for Ramadan (which began 4/7).

EGYPT: R. Cairo — On new 9940 from 2015 with Big Ben-style chimes, usual news theme and into news. Not dual any other Cairo freq audible. (4/8) And on new 11560 from around 1745 to 2000* in seeming Farsi with *Qur'an*, Mideast music; at 1815 clock chimes, news theme and into news. Fuzzy, severely distorted audio. Again no parallels found. These could be spurs—but of what? (3/25, 4/1)

INDONESIA: RRI Palembang — On 4855.8 from 2255 with monotonous local music, man and woman in Indonesian; at 2258 into "SCI." Seemed brief horn fanfare just before 2300, then generic RRI ID and into network news. Very rare here, especially at this time of day. RRI Jambi, 4927, dual after 2300 and about an S-unit better. (4/3)

IRAN: VOIRI — On new 9555 at 2320 with chants and Farsi talk dual 9022; mixing badly with another station. (4/6)

KAMPUCHEA: V. of the Kampuchean People — On 4910, assumed this one from 2307 with man and woman swapping the mike in Khmer (which has a very distinctive sound); still at it by 2320 when fading out. Had been fair at tune-in, though bothered by high-side ute carrier. (4/3) Heard again 4/5 from 2250 with carrier; at 2257 local music on percussion, brief announcement, more local music, and into talk at 2300. Considerably poorer than 4/3; weak and QRM'd by TV birdie, CW and the usual gang of miscellaneous utes.

LIBYA: V. of the Great Arab Homeland — Has reactivated 7235, as observed at 0356 ending "V. of the ... Palestine People" ("*Saut al-[2-3 syllables] sha'abiyya ti-filastin*") program and returning to usual VOGAH ("*Saut al-watan al-arabiyya kebir, saut al-[2-3 syllables] thauriyya*") fare. Very strong; parallel various combinations of 15235, 15415 and 15450. (3/30+)

MOZAMBIQUE: Emissão Nacional — On 6111.7 from 2140 with European-style pops; at 2200 into news in Portuguese, then anthem at 2206 and s/off. Poor, with vicious slop from overmodulated Budapest; dual 7242.5 also heard at weak level. Despite the impressive power levels listed in WRTH and

other sources, it's unlikely that either transmitter is actually radiating more than 1-5 kw. (4/2)

PAKISTAN: R. Pakistan — On new 17895 after 0100 with *Qur'an* dual 15190; both channels poor. (4/7) On 21490 (new for this time period) with Urdu *0045-0230* dual 17660. (4/7) On new 21575 with Swahili at *0300-0330*; 17725 dual at much weaker level. (4/7) 21575 again with English to 1120*. (4/8) On new 21580 from 0448 with subcontinental vocal, usual accompaniment; woman in presumed Urdu. At 0500 pips, then continued. This and parallels 17660 and 15606 began to deteriorate shortly thereafter. (3/28) On new 21740 just before *1600 with "Type-writer Song," pips, English ID, time check for 9 o'clock; into news. A powerhouse—by far the best signal I've ever heard from this station. (4/2) [After doing all this detective work, I received my copy of FRENEX a couple of days later and found the whole new schedule in "Listener's Notebook"! Oh well ...]

QATAR: Qatar BC Service — On new 17825 from 1615 with *Qur'an*, radio drama, Mideast vocals; at 1700 "5+1" pips (the last one a third higher), (WRTH) ID, news in Arabic till cut off at 1705. (4/2) On new 21565 from 1152 with Mideast vocals; at 1200 pips and news in Arabic with two IDs. (4/2)

SAUDI ARABIA: BSKSA — On new 21505 from 1300 tune-in; heard with Arabic programs and (WRTH) IDs to 1630, when "5+1" pips (all same pitch) followed by news. Off at 1703. Fuzzy audio and severe co-channel Prague QRM. (3/25, 3/26)

VENEZUELA: Ecos del Torbes — Has reactivated 9640 after years of silence. First heard 4/1 around 0040 with *salsa*-style songs and ad string; weak and splattered. Next AM (still 4/1) from 0907 with UTC-4 time checks, ads for *lotería de Táchira*, office equipment company in San Cristóbal, local *supermercado*. Better than dual 4980.

YEMEN PDR: DYBS — On 5970 at 0319 with Mideast singing; weak and with severe co-channel QRM. Relatively clear and infinitely better on dual 7190. The 5970 outlet seldom heard here, especially around this time of day (3/30)

Last-minute items from Alan LAVES, Dallas TX:

INDONESIA: RRI Gorontalo — On 3265a (looks like 3265.7) from 1158 with woman mentioning Gorontalo, then reference to upcoming Jakarta news relay. Followed with "SCI," short vocal theme, relay at 1200. Fair/good; gone at 1218 recheck. No QRM; is Bengkulu still in this neighborhood? (4/1)

MALAYSIA: RTM, Sibul — On 5005 at 1247 in presumed Iban as scheduled. Poor this channel and dual 6050 (also Sibul); fair on dual 4895 (Kuching). Other Green Network outlets listed for 6060 and 7270 not noted. (4/1) • **RTM, Kuala Lumpur** — On 5965 at 1229 with two pips, then woman with

presumed time check and ID "Inilah R. [garbled] Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur." Into Bahasa Malaysia as per schedule; good. (4/1)

SOUTH AFRICA: R. RSA — On 4965 from *0400 with time pip, woman with presumed news in Afrikaans, then ID "... Afrikaans Dienst van Radio RSA, die Stem van Suid Afrika." Gave three freqs and went into program; very strong but gone by 0516 recheck. Not listed in WRTH/89. Fade pattern is consistent with other stations from Meyerton this PM and seems too early for Windhoek. Presumed target is Namibia. Did R. RSA recently reactive here to build audience? (4/3) ■