

JANUARY 1989

We have a record turnout of reporters to start off 1989: Sam BARTO, Bristol CT ... Michael BOLITHO, Toronto, Ont. (and with Niel Wolfish at Dunedin, Ont.) ... Robert CARLSEN, Vincent OH ... Dave COPP, Rockford IL ... Rich ECKMAN, San Jose CA ... Ray FRONCZAK, St. Louis MO ... Tom HALL, Sebastopol CA ... Harry HELMS, San Diego CA ... Victor JAAR, Charlesbourg, Que. ... Rufus JORDAN, Pittsburgh PA ... Alan LAVES, Dallas TX ... Andy LESKOWITZ, Leominster MA ... Chris LOBDELL, Wilmington MA ... Larry MAGNE, Penn's Park PA ... Dale PARK, Honolulu HI ... Kevin SZOT, Santiago, Chile ... Nick TERRENCE, Huntington NY. Great showing, gang! Keep it up.

ALASKA: KNLS — On 7355 at 1343-1359* in listed Chinese; talks by man and woman, musical interludes. At 1359 ID by woman, "Chariots of Fire" theme and off. USSR QRM. (*Bolitho 12/13*)

BOLIVIA: R. Santa Cruz — On 6135a from 1007 calling itself "la voz alternativa en Bolivia oriental," then ID and into ballads. Readable only in LSB; quickly deteriorating. (*Laves 1/7*)

BRAZIL: R. Pioneira de Teresina — On 5015 from 0850 with festive music, three IDs within 10 minutes, UTC-2 time check. SIO 132 in co-channel mix with possibly another ZY. (*Laves 1/7*)

BURKINA FASO: RTB — On 7230 at 0810 giving station address in French, then into announcements in local language and songs by group. (*Jaar 12/18*)

BURMA: BBS — On 5985 from 1456 with several clear IDs, e.g. "This news comes to you from the Burmese Broadcasting Service, Rangoon." Also instrumental version of "Hot Rod Lincoln." SINPO 34443 when best, but fading fast after 1510. (*Eckman 12/19*)

CAMBODIA: V. of the Kampuchean People — On 11938 from *0045 with brief march, then woman (sounded like young girl) in Lao. Theme briefly, then man took over the mike. Weak, splattered. (*BH 12/24*) From 1255 in Oriental language; at 1300 silence, ID (Vietnamese listed for 1300). Better before Romania came on at 1300. (*Bolitho 12/22, 12/23*)

CAMEROON: CRTV, Bertoua — On 5010 at 0508 with ID as "the National Service of the Cameroon Radio and Television Corp.;" SIO 333. (*Laves 12/22*)

CHILE: R. Santa Maria — On 6029.5 from 1035 with many mentions of Coihaique, ads for local businesses, announcement that "Viejito Pascuero" (Santa Claus in

Chile) is on his way! ID: "R. Santa Maria de Coihaique ... 6030 kHz en 49 metros onda corta, cubriendo todo el territorio nacional." Maybe so, but that's the first time I've been able to hear it from Santiago. Also mentioned an MW freq I didn't catch. (*Szot 12/12*) On 6030 at 0827 with quick canned jingles, ads, vocals, mentions of Santa Maria; much QRM. (*Eckman 12/18*) ... **R. Patagonia** — On 6080 at 1129 with time check and "Atención Patagónica [sic]"; under the pesky Russki, which had a dragging turntable today. (*Szot 12/27*)

CHINA: Zhejiang PBS — On 2475, presumed this one at 1439 with English lessons by man and woman alternating English and Chinese. Topic: buying pineapples! Fair. (*Helms 12/24*) ... **CPBS Taiwan 2** — On 4850 at 1725 in Chinese with woman airing martial and folk music; poor. Broadcasts around this freq are harder to hear these days since one of the local military bases parked a ute on 4855 last year. (*Park 12/23*) ... **R. Beijing** — Have been hearing *1130 Thai on unlisted 6620 dual 7190 and 7350. (*BH 1/1+*) ... (*T*) **Nei Menggu PBS Mongolian Service** — Believed to be the one on 11865 both local PMs and local AMs in Mongolian or similar. Eves, sometimes readable during windows of Deutsche Welle silent time (usually around 0150-0157 and 0250-0257); morns, sometimes readable around 1100-1300 through intense QRM from co-channel RRI. Man and woman announcers swapping the mike; vocals in bizarre mix of subcontinental and Oriental styles. Also had dramatic readings and PRC-type orchestral music. 5+1 pips noted at 1100 and 1200. Several sources in Japan report 11865 as the sole remaining freq for this service (although since 12/30 I've been hearing a station on 6973.5—one day from 1110, another day just after 2300—that sounds like them). A few months ago, one DXer reported hearing Ulan Bator on 11865—but, as far as I know, they're still on 11855. (*BH 12/21+*)

(*T*) **DJIBOUTI: RTV Djibouti** — On 4780 from 0306 with Qur'an; by 0309 the YV was back on top for good.

Very weak and fading, but steady during moments of YV fade. Finally, after two years of trying! (*Leskowitz 12/28*)

EQUATORIAL GUINEA: *R. Nacional, Malabo* — On 6249.5 from 0540 with nice uptempo African highlife music with some pops thrown in. Some fading, QRN, high-side het. (*Leskowitz 12/3*)

(T) **ETHIOPIA:** *V. of Ethiopia* — On 7110, probably this at 0432-0442 with Somali-type music and talk in language. Too much slop from 7115 for positive ID. (*Jaar 1/9*)

FRANCE: *RFI* — On 25820 from 1531 in French; at 1534 ID "Ici Paris." Fair but fluttery. (*Helms 12/30*)

(T) **GREECE:** *RS Makedonias* — On 9935 from 1352 with nonstop Christmas music; at 1400 woman in presumed Greek. SIO 132 here; SIO 142 on dual 11595. (*Laves 12/26*)

GUAM: *AWR Asia* — On new 13720 at 1359 with English ID; gave address in Hong Kong and said Burmese would follow. This on 12/24; noted again 1/1 from 2250 in Chinese or similar, with ID at 2259. (*Jaar*)

HAITI: *4VEH* — On 4930 at 1200 with ID in French; into news in Creole. This on 1/10; had noted them back on the air since 1/4. (*Jaar*)

ICELAND: *ISBS* — On 17558 from 2002 with presumably news in Icelandic; SINPO 25322 but nil on 15659. (*Eckman 12/31*)

INDIA: *AIR, Madras or Delhi* — On 4990 from 0037 presumably in Tamil; program of subcontinental music with nice sitars and flutes. Some QRM but decent signal. (*Leskowitz 12/15*) [*Latest consensus seems to favor Madras as being the transmitter site. — BH*]

INDONESIA: *RRI Ujung Pandang* — On 4753.3, presumed this from 2143 in seeming Indonesian with some lagu2; at 2155 into talk, then quick fade. Very muddy audio with RTTY QRM and lots of QRN. (*Leskowitz 12/13*)

IRAQ: *BSRI* — If it's Tuesday, this must be time for a dozen Baghdad freq changes. On new 6004.5 at 2100 with 12 clock chimes and news in Arabic till 2113. Badly QRMed here by CFCX; clear on parallels 7210 and 11970 (both also new). (*BH 12/17*) On new 7225 from 1752 with Mideast music; at 1800 "V" pips and into news in Arabic. Parallels 7210, new 7280 and 9660 noted at various times through final check at 2013. (*BH 12/18*) On 9515 to 1500 with commentary in English, music. (*Terrence 12/11*) Presumed Baghdad on new 9605, dual new 11925, from *0400 with s/on announcements in Arabic by soft-voiced woman; into Mideast vocal. (*BH 12/20*) Spanish to Latin America is now at 2200-2300v

on new 11710, readable with great difficulty through co-channel Sofia. Many birthday greetings and iterations of "Happy Birthday"; opens and closes with NA. S/off has varied between 2253 and 2304. (*BH 12/23+*)

IRELAND: *Boyneside R.* — On 6205 at 0851-1000 with DJ and pop music, both oldies and current hits; lots of ads for local businesses (Cassidy's clothing store, carpet/furniture store, etc.). DJ mentioned 1500 close-down—evidently required by Ireland's new pirate law—and thanked listeners and sponsors for their support. At 1004, 6231.1 found dual. (*Bolitho/Wolfish 12/30*) ... *R. Fax* — On 6205 from 0840 with DJ Trevor Brooks and a woman saying this was final broadcast. Good level past 0920. (*Lobdell 1/8*) ... *World Music R. via R. Dublin* — On 6909.7 at 2134 with pops; gave PO Box address in Holland. Evidently unaffected by new pirate law. Also noted around 0900 with very strong signal. (*Bolitho/Wolfish 1/1*)

ITALY: *Italian R. Relay Service* — On 7160 from *0757 with trumpet music; at 0759 ID in English, then talk in Italian and music to 0830. (*Lobdell 1/8*)

JORDAN: *R. Jordan* — On new 7155 at 2208 in Arabic. (*Jaar 12/30*). Has reactivated 11810 and added new 11940 as noted at 0514 with ID in Arabic. (*Jaar 12/20*) On new 11955 from 0503 with news and weather in Arabic; at 0514 ID; this on 1/3; heard again 0600 next eve. (*Jaar*) On 11955 from 0715 with relay of Home Service in English; had pop music, weather. Co-channel QRM from presumed ELWA until latter 0800*. (*Laves 1/9*) On new 15435 around 2210 with Arabic to Brazil; tuned here after freq announced on 7155. (*Jaar 12/30*)

KENYA: *V. of Kenya* — On 4934 at 2100 with Christmas greetings in English. (*Bolitho 12/24*)

KOREA, NORTH: *R. Pyongyang* — On 13650 at *2300-2340* in English with IDs, freqs, skeds, world news, heroic/patriotic music. (*Jordan 12/14*)

KUWAIT: *R. Bahrain via R. Kuwait* — On 15505 from 1200 with news in Arabic; IDs of "Huna Bahrein" at 1214 and 1225. (*Fronczak 1/2*)

LIBERIA: *ELWA* — On 11955 at 0620-0800 in Arabic and English with "Morning Show." (*Jordan 12/30*) On 11955 at 0730 with clear Arabic ID mentioning Monrovia; into hymns. Excellent signal with solar flux 250. (*Eckman 12/18*)

MALAYSIA: *RTM* — Presumed this on 4842.7 from 2149 with subcontinental vocals; at 2200 two men swapping mike till 2207 in what seemed scheduled Tamil, then an EZL vocal number, another announcement and a subcontinental offering—all in all, typical nondescript RTM programming. Very weak at tune-in; improved to fair by 2215 and still audible at 2310 recheck. (*BH 12/28*)

MALTA: R. Mediterranean — On 6110.1 from 2345 with mix of Christmas carols and rock, followed by dialog re background of R. Mediterranean. Heavy QRM. (Terrence 12/23)

MOZAMBIQUE: Em. Nacional — On 3210 from 0320 with highlife music, Portuguese talk by various announcers. Strongest signal here in years till began fading around 0335. (Bolitho/Wolfish 1/1) ... **Em. Provincial de Maputo e Gaza** — On 3338, presumed this around 0315 in Portuguese with pops; by 0333 fading badly. This on 1/1; in December, had been heard from *0250 with IS and ID. (Bolitho/Wolfish)

(T) **NEPAL: R. Nepal** — On 5005, likely this one from 1222 with subcontinental music and Hindi-sounding language; at 1245 into possible news. Great signal (especially at tune-in) with usual ute missing. (Jaar 1/4)

NIGER: ORTN — On 5020 from *0529 with IS, then kids singing NA. At 0532 flute, then French ID as "La Voix du Sahel." SIO 333. (Laves 12/22)

OMAN: R. Oman — On 6085 at 1822 in Arabic dual 11890, which has improved lately. (Jaar 12/21+)

PAKISTAN: R. Pakistan — On new 13675 at 1625 with dictation-speed news in English. (Jaar 12/23+)

PARAGUAY: R. Encarnación — On 11944.7 at 0219-0259* with almost Peruvian-sounding vocals, times checks; at 0255 ID and off with no NA. Severe adjacent-channel slop. (Bolitho/Wolfish 1/2)

PERU: R. San Juan de Caraz — On 4731.4 from 0340 with Latin rock; at 0349 s/off with ID. (Szot) ... **R. Huanta 2000** — Now hanging out on 4752. At 0144 time check for "8:44" amid *cumbias*; at 0150 cart ID with poor audio, although live modulation good. At 0209 another ID. (Szot 12/13) ... **R. Mundo** — On 5081 from 0850 with Peruvian selections; at 0900 ID with mentions of R. Mundo and Cusco. Good strength; weak modulation. (Bolitho/Wolfish 1/1) ... **La V. de Cutervo** — On 6691.25 from around 0110 with *huaynos*, M in Spanish; at 0227 "Happy Birthday" song, ID, anthem to 0233a s/off. Very good with a little noise and CW QRM. (Hall 12/26)

QATAR: Qatar BC Service — On new 7170, readable only between VOA 0330 s/off and BBC 0340 s/on. Heard with familiar news theme, usual Arabic ID, news as scheduled per WRTH. (BH 12/23) On new 7320 from 1931 in Arabic with local songs; at 2000 ID after time check for 10 PM. (Jaar 12/21+)

SCOTLAND: World Music R. — On 6317.4 at 0300-0345 in English with several IDs by man, IDs in other languages by woman. Also next day at 0544-0600 with nothing but station IDs and mentions of 15045, 6317 and 98 FM. Very good signal. (Barto 12/25) On 6317 at

0240-0430 with test tape loop; fair-poor. (Lobdell 12/27) On 6318 at 0418-0431 in English with several IDs and broadcast info; very poor. (Carlsen 12/25)

SEYCHELLES: FEBA — On new 11915 at 1901 with IS, ID in Arabic, more IS. (Jaar 12/21)

SOUTH AFRICA: R. 5 — On 25790 from 0828 with Bananarama song; at 0830 suddenly off. At 0837 recheck, back with pops, DJ chatter, ads, Z+2 time checks; poor. (Park 1/5) ... **R. RSA** — On 25790 at 1500 with time pips, ID by woman and into news; strong, local-like signal. (Helms 12/29)

SRI LANKA: SLBC English Service — On 9720 from 1620 with songs; at 1630 kids' program. At 1700 time check, ID, news. (Jaar 12/29+)

TAIWAN: V. of Free China — On 15345 at 2259 ending Korean; followed with 5-note IS I've never heard before, then announcement in Chinese, IS again and more Chinese. Seldom observed here. (BH 12/28)

THAILAND: R. Thailand — On 7115 from 1155 with exotic crooning by woman with instrumental accompaniment; at 1200 brief announcement in Thai, 5+1 pips (final one longer but same pitch) and into presumed news, including 3-minute segment with woman speaking into PA system. Much to my surprise, dual 4830 also clearly readable against low-pitched het. Audio on both freqs "fat" yet tinny, suggesting relay of MW. Both channels fair but sinking fast by 1220. (BH 12/18, 12/23)

USSR: Georgian R., Tbilisi — On 4875, presumed this from 0445 with semiclassical music and vocals; dual 4930 this night. No other Mayak freqs were parallel. (Leskowitz 12/31) ... (T) **Latvian R., Riga** — On 5935 at 0759 with Mayak IS, 6 pips and into talk. (Laves 1/2) ... **R. Tashkent** — On 9540 from 1200 with English ID, world news, Armenian music. Good. (Terrence 1/5) ... **Kazakh R., Alma-Ata** — On 11950 from 0007 signing on after interminable versions of USSR and Kazakhstan anthems. ID in Russian ending with "Kazakhskoye R. nachinaet svoyu rabotu" (equivalent to "Kazakh R. begins another broadcast day"), then 13-note chime IS and s/on announcements in Kazakh. At 0015, joined Moscow for morning exercises. Dual 9780 also audible through ute. (BH 12/22)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Capital R. via UAE R., Abu Dhabi — On 9595 from 2230 in English with phone-in contest, ID, address; at 2245 into Christmas pop medley by the Ronettes, then rock oldies and UK pops. At 2300 wiped out by BBC/9590 s/on; fair till then. (Copp 12/22) [This is a relay of FM. — BH] ... **VOUAE, Abu Dhabi** — On new 13605 with an ID in Arabic at 1630; dual 11815. This on 12/23. Another new freq, 21735, noted at 1350 on 12/21. (Jaar)

URUGUAY: R. Monte Carlo — On 11735 at 1800 with ID "R. Monte Carlo ... transmite CX20"; continued with relay of news from R. La Plata about Alfonsin's problem on the other side of the Rio de la Plata. (Szot 12/3)

YEMEN ARAB REP.: R. Sana'a — My speculation that the new 5950 might have replaced 4853 proves unfounded. Noted on 4853.1 at 0316 with what seemed drama in Arabic—parallel 5950 and 9779.3, so they now have at least three SWBC transmitters. But 4853 is definitely no longer used during local afternoons (EST) to 2100*. (BH 12/23)

ZAIRE: R. CANDIP — On 5066.4 from 0356 with African highlife music on accordion-like instrument; announcements in French mentioned CANDIP. Static and fading; out by 0409. This on 12/15; slightly better 12/22. (Leskowitz)

PIRATE (USA): Falling Star R. — On 6241 at 0441-0603* with pop music, Christmas greetings, request for \$5 donation, minute of silence for Pan Am victims. (Carlsen 12/24) ... **United World R.** — On 7414 at 0314-0354* with pop music hosted by Mike Davis; request for QSLs c/o Tagat in New York. Also had DX report! (Carlsen 1/1) ... **"WENJ"/"J Rock"** — On 7416 at 2208-2243* with Beach Boys and 60s music hosted

by Jack Bean; gave phone number of (201) 525-7960 for QSL. (Carlsen 12/31)

PIRATE (EUROPEAN): (T) R. Apollo — On 6312.7 at 0905-0930 with pops, DJ apparently in both English and Dutch with tentative mentions of R. Apollo. Muddy voice modulation; poor signal. (Bolitho/Wolfish 1/1)

UNIDENTIFIED — On 4835.1 from 1145 with steel drum island-type music; at 1200 chanting by children with prayers to 1206. (Terrence 12/10) [R. Tezululan is here this time of day, no? — BH] ... On 4890, an African coming on at 0325 with five minutes of what sounded like the mating call of a bull elephant. At 0330 anthem sung by native chorus, then short announcement in French-sounding vernacular followed by opening measures of Finale of Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Continued with vernacular talk, chants, orchestral interludes till wiped out by RFI Gabon carrier at 0355. I have a strong hunch I've heard this station somewhere before—any help out there? (BH 12/30+) ... On 6280, evidently a Europirate at 0925-0947 with heavy-metal selections, DJ host; very poor. (Bolitho/Wolfish 12/31) ... On 28260 from 0018 with seeming radio drama in unID language. Signal fluttering and close to noise level; gone by 0030. Checked 7215 and 9620 for fundamental, but dominant signals there not parallel this one. (Helms 1/3)

Information received by Larry Magne as telephoned directly from the Italian Radio Relay Service:

A new, privately owned station officially came on the air last December 3. Called the Italian Radio Relay Service, it operates out of Milan and is unusual in that it doesn't originate any of the programs it airs. Instead, it relays programs from other organizations, notably United Nations Radio, Radio Earth and UNESCO. It operates using a ten-year-old Siemens single-sideband transmitter with a power of 10 kw that's fairly well heard throughout Europe, right up into the northern reaches of Scandinavia. They already have a reception report from Massachusetts—presumably Jerry Berg's.

Although the transmitter is single sideband, it can be received well on ordinary radios. The L-shaped dipole antennas operate on 75, 41 and 31 meters, and it is hoped that they can eventually operate on 25 and 21 meters as well. However, the frequency of 3945 they once tried will not be used again, because after they had been on it awhile an RTTY loop transmission came on and covered the channel—apparently to drive IRRS away.

The IRRS schedule is Sundays, and occasionally Saturdays, from 0800 to 0955 on 7160 kHz, and 1000-1400 (sometimes to 1500) on 9860 kHz. Programs are usually in English, but UN programs are also sometimes in French, Spanish and Swedish. The station can be contacted at P. O. Box 10980, Milan 20110, Italy, or by telephone by calling the director, Alfredo Cotroneo, at country code 39, 2-266-6971.

(Incidentally, according to a well-informed source in Italy, all private SW stations listed in WRTH/88—except AWR—have been off the air since 1987 in one case, and even longer in the others.)

73 / DX,

Bob