



From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: October 8, 2015
Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of October 8, 2015**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today in at the headquarters of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN) in Springfield, Virginia. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Jeffrey Shell
Governor Matthew Armstrong
Governor Leon Aron
Governor Michael Kempner (via telephone)
Governor Karen Kornbluh
Governor Kenneth Weinstein
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel

Governor Ryan Crocker was not in attendance.

Other persons in attendance are listed at the end of these minutes.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website.

Chairman Shell noted all Governors were present except Governor Crocker, who was traveling. He then confirmed Governor Kempner's participation by telephone.

The Chairman noted that the meeting was held at the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN) headquarters in Springfield, Virginia and commented that the new facility allows Alhurra, Radio Sawa, and the digital team to work together in one space. He added that MBN's offices and studios are modern, vibrant, and action-oriented, and it is a credit to MBN team who is upholding such a strong journalistic standard. He said that this is an especially important time given the wide range of newsworthy events happening each day across the Middle East, and that the region needs media outlets like Alhurra and Radio Sawa to continue to serve as a trustworthy source of news and information. He further noted that these networks of MBN reach more than 30 million people each week, the majority of whom rate them as a credible voice for fact-based

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reporting. On a final note, the Chairman said that MBN had a busy year and rolled out its “Raise Your Voice” campaign to empower everyday citizens to help combat extremism in the region.

Chairman Shell announced some personnel changes, most notably the recent addition of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director John Lansing. He briefly introduced Mr. Lansing and welcomed him to his first Board meeting. At the Chairman’s invitation, Mr. Lansing commented that it was his honor to enter into public service and to join a team of world class journalists and media professionals. The Chairman then said while the Board was sad about Suzie Carroll’s departure from the Agency, the Board was fortunate to be joined by Rob Fallon and introduced him as Senior Advisor to CEO Lansing. He noted that Mr. Fallon came from the U.S. Department of State and will fill behind Ms. Carroll. He added that Ms. Carroll, who was also present, was returning to the Bay area and thanked her for her tremendous contributions to the Agency in both as a member of the Interim Management Team and as the Board’s liaison. Finally, the Chairman announced the departure of Paul Kollmer-Dorsey, who recently resigned as BBG General Counsel and Board Secretary to accept a new position as General Counsel at the American Academy of Actuaries, and thanked Mr. Kollmer-Dorsey for all his work for the BBG. He concluded by saying that one the many immediate priorities for Mr. Lansing will be to recruit and select candidates to fill several critical vacancies at the Agency, including the Director of Voice of America (VOA) position, as these jobs are critical to U.S. international media.

Chairman Shell noted that, while much has changed for the Agency, one thing has not changed is the threat to journalists around the world as they go about their work in the face of danger. He credited the journalists for their courage and tenacity, and the harsh treatment they often endure in the name of free press. He then reported on the following events since the last Board meeting: 1) Investigative journalist and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s (RFE/RL) contributor Hadijah Ismailova was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison in Azerbaijan for exposing government corruption, and the Chairman called for her immediate release and also noted that RFE/RL’s Baku Bureau in Azerbaijan remains closed after it was raided last December, with VOA stringers working in that country being threatened; 2) Radio Free Asia’s (RFA) reporter Shohret Hoshur continues to await news of the fate of his two brothers who had been jailed in China in retaliation for Mr. Hoshur’s coverage of escalating tension and violence between Uyghur and Han ethnic groups in the far west of China; 3) In Turkmenistan, a freelance reporter for RFE/RL was reportedly convicted and sentenced to three years in prison, though no official confirmation has been given; 4) In Burundi, a VOA reporter had to flee the country after surviving a grenade attack on her house; 5) Threats to VOA journalists have been reported in Zimbabwe, Angola, Cameroon and Niger; and 6) Alhurra reporter Bashar Fahmi still has not been seen or heard from since disappearing on a reporting trip to Aleppo, Syria more than three years ago.

Turning to Board business, the Chairman stated that the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board’s quorum requirement, permitting the Board to conduct business based on majority vote. He said that the Board had received by email materials for the consent agenda on September 24, 2015, and that he did not receive comments from any Governors. He described the six items on the consent agenda for Board consideration. He detailed, in particular, the resolution on the 2015 David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards – a prize of \$2500 and a

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certificate from the BBG – and announced the following individuals or group for their exceptional integrity, bravery and originality in reporting: Ibrahim Ahmed from VOA, Jose Alpizar from the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB), RFE/RL's Baku Bureau, and MBN producers of Alhurra's *Delusional Paradise*. Under Secretary Stengel moved for adoption of the consent agenda. Governor Kornbluh seconded. Without objection, the consent agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board.

At Chairman Shell's invitation, BBG CEO Lansing began his report by outlining key activities since his appointment on September 14. Mr. Lansing stated that he had conversations with Board members; discussions with network heads; meetings with BBG stakeholders on the Hill, at U.S. Department of State and elsewhere; visits with VOA language services; and tours of the OCB and MBN headquarters. From these, Mr. Lansing developed five strategic themes that help guide the BBG's work and strengthen and support the BBG's global mission: Aggressive shift to digital platforms; Enhancing strategic cooperation between BBG entities through formation of the USIM Coordinating Committee (ICC); Pursue curation and distribution of content, both BBG-produced and acquired; Target resources for maximum impact towards spheres of influence; and Greater accountability through measurement of impact with targeted audiences. Mr. Lansing noted that his official workday as BBG CEO was also the week when the Agency's Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget was due, and that the Office of Management and Budget was kind enough to grant him an extension. Mr. Lansing described how he formed a coalition of BBG network heads to a newly-formed ICC committee working together over the next two weeks to create a single, harmonized FY 2017 budget submission based on the five themes. He commended the ICC for their work and emphasized the continued need to support and enhance Internet freedom and fight censorship worldwide.

At the Chairman's request, Governor Armstrong gave a report on his recent trip to Russia and China where he had the opportunity to meet with VOA and RFE/RL reporters there. Governor Armstrong outlined his visits to Moscow, Beijing and Shanghai, and thanked the U.S. Department of State, RFE/RL and VOA for their assistance. Governor Armstrong stated that he was accompanied by VOA Russian Service Irina Van Deusen in Moscow and by VOA East Asia and Pacific Division Jing Zhang in Beijing and Shanghai. He noted that he examined the media market for and operations of VOA in the regions, met with reporters, local citizens, and government officials. Particularly in China, through a prior meeting with Mr. Zhao Qizheng (former head of the Information Office and currently Dean of the School of Journalism at Remin University) Governor Armstrong secured meetings with Vice Minister of the Information Office Guo Weimin and Director General of the Department of International Affairs from the State Council (Chinese cabinet) Information Office as well the Shanghai Municipal Foreign Affairs to discuss VOA's mission and reciprocity. Governor Armstrong concluded by surmising that while interest in and demand for VOA's content is high, even greater opportunities are available if the right product is presented in the right format and the right style, all of which can be improved by focusing on the value that great staff adds.

In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, Chairman Shell noted that three members of the public were present and had signed-up to speak: James Malone from the Voice of America, Adam Clayton Powell III from University

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of Southern California, and Joseph Noonan of the Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting. Chairman Shell thanked the speakers and invited more members of the public to attend the meetings and offer their views. The Chairman then adjourned the meeting. The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of July 1, 2015. The Board adopted the minutes of the July 1, 2015 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of RFE/RL Broadcasting in the Romanian Language to Romania and Moldova. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65th anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty broadcasting in the Romanian language to Romania and Moldova as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring the 60th Anniversary of VOA's Khmer Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 60th anniversary Voice of America's Khmer Service as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring the 35th Anniversary of VOA's Afghanistan Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 35th anniversary Voice of America's Afghanistan Service as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution on 2015 David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards. The Board adopted the resolution on 2015 David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards as set forth in Attachment 6.
6. Resolution on BBG Meeting Dates in 2016. The Board adopted the resolution on BBG meeting dates in 2016 as set forth in Attachment 7.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG CEO and Director John F. Lansing; Director of Technology, Services and Innovation Andre Mendes; Senior Advisor Robert Fallon; Director of Global Strategy Robert Bole; Interim Board Secretary Andrew Krog; Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran; Kelu Chao, Acting Director of the Voice of America; Carlos Garcia-Perez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting; Nenad Pejic, Interim Manager for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Stephanie Schmidt, RFE/RL Acting Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; Christine Fetzko, RFE/RL Chief of Staff; Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks; and Dan Sreebny, Senior Advisor for BBG, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs.

Approved:

Jeffrey Shell
Chairman

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Witnessed:

Andrew Krog
Interim Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda for October 8, 2015 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of July 1, 2015 Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of RFE/RL Broadcasting in the Romanian Language to Romania and Moldova
4. Resolution Honoring the 60th Anniversary of VOA's Khmer Service
5. Resolution Honoring the 35th Anniversary of VOA's Afghanistan Service
6. Resolution on 2015 David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards
7. Resolution on BBG Meeting Dates in 2016

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ATTACHMENT 1

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS October 2015 Meeting Agenda (MBN HEADQUARTERS IN SPRINGFIELD, VA)

Thursday, October 8

8:30 – 11:15 Broadcasting Board of Governors' Open Meeting

Chairman's Remarks

A. Consent Agenda

- Draft Minutes of July 1, 2015 Board Meeting
- Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of RFE/RL Broadcasting in the Romanian Language to Romania and Moldova
- Resolution Honoring the 60th Anniversary of VOA's Khmer Service
- Resolution Honoring the 35th Anniversary of VOA's Afghanistan Service
- Resolution on 2015 David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards
- Resolution on BBG Meeting Dates in 2016

B. Governor Armstrong's Trip Report

C. CEO & Director's Report

D. Public Comment

9:00 – 9:15 Break

E. Panel Discussion Featuring Under Secretary Richard Stengel and BBG CEO John Lansing

10:00 – 10:15 Break

F. Review of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks

G. Other Items for Consideration at Next Board Meeting

11:15 BBG Meeting Adjourned

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ATTACHMENT 2

From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: July 1, 2015
Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of July 1, 2015**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today in at the headquarters of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) in Prague, Czech Republic. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Governor Matthew Armstrong
Governor Leon Aron (via telephone)
Governor Ryan Crocker
Governor Michael Kempner
Governor Karen Kornbluh (via telephone)
Governor Kenneth Weinstein
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel (via telephone)

Chairman Jeffrey Shell was not in attendance.

Other persons in attendance are listed at the end of these minutes.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

Governor Kempner called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website. He noted that the meeting was being held at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) headquarters in Prague, Czech Republic. He added that Chairman Shell was not able to attend and had asked him to preside over today's meeting.

Governor Kempner briefly commented on the Board's visit, including meetings with various RFE/RL officials and touring the facilities and learning more about the important work at RFE/RL. He expressed that all of the Governors in attendance were impressed with the work and dedication by the staff of RFE/RL in promoting the democratic values of free and open press. He noted that the Board would hear more from RFE/RL during a review of its current operations.

As the meeting in Prague celebrates two anniversaries for RFE/RL—65th anniversary since its original broadcast and 20th anniversary since its move from Munich to Prague, Governor

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Kempner, on behalf of the Board, thanked the Czech people and its government for their support of the United States, its people, democratic values, and RFE/RL in the past 20 years.

Before moving to Board business, Governor Kempner brought attention to the threats that RFE/RL and other BBG journalists continue to face around the world. He acknowledged the challenges for all U.S. international media in light of increasingly oppressive governments and the rise of extremism. He highlighted the following incidents: (1) Shohret Hoshur of Radio Free Asia's (RFA) service whose three brothers are in jail in China—two are scheduled to be in court to face anti-state charges and a third was sentenced last June to five years, accused of endangering state security—for his reporting of unrest and strife in China's northwest Uyghur region; hence, the BBG joins the U.S. Department of State in requesting China to release his brothers and treat them with dignity; (2) Khadija Ismayilova, an investigative journalist for RFE/RL Azerbaijani Service, was arrested in Azerbaijan in December of 2014 and is being unjustly punished for her reporting on government corruption and human rights abuses in the country; thus, the BBG condemns the Azeri government for both the raid and closure of RFE/RL's Baku Bureau and the imprisonment of Ismayilova, calling for her immediate release; (3) In Armenia, two RFE/RL journalists were beaten by police while reporting on a standoff between the government and protestors on June 23, as well as other members of the RFE/RL team who were roughed up and detained; (4) In Tajikistan, the authorities have blocked access to RFE/RL's websites since early June, leaving little alternative to Russian media; (5) In Turkmenistan, the unprecedented intimidation campaign, including pressure on family members and public shaming, had finally forced one of RFE/RL's remaining correspondents there to quit; (6) In Burundi, a Voice of America (VOA) correspondent had a grenade thrown at her home in the capital Bujumbura, a day after she received an anonymous death threat, causing her to leave the country; (7) In Cuba, many journalists who contribute to the Martis are being arrested and harassed on a weekly basis, including three journalists were arrested on World Press Freedom Day; and (8) Bashar Fahmi, a correspondent of Alhurra, who has not been seen or heard from since he disappeared during a reporting trip in Aleppo, Syria, nearly three years ago.

Moving to Board business, Governor Kempner stated that the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, permitting the Board to conduct business based on majority vote. He said that the Board had received by email materials for the consent agenda, and that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

Governor Kempner described the five items on the consent agenda for the Board's consideration. Governor Crocker moved for adoption of the consent agenda. Governor Weinstein seconded. Without objection, the consent agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board.

At Governor Kempner's invitation, Governor Armstrong, Chair of BBG Special Committee on VOA in the 21st Century, gave a brief report on his visit to Myanmar, Cambodia, and Indonesia where he met with VOA and RFA contributors, as well as other stakeholders in the region. Governor Armstrong provided highlights of his meetings, including a meeting with the President of Myanmar. He focused on three main points: (1) high demand for international media content in all three countries, especially VOA content; (2) VOA and RFA occupying different areas in the countries they cover, with limited encounters by reporters being indicative of the various

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projects and assignments; and (3) a better means of allocating resources as an agency. He also commented on the collaboration between VOA and RFE/RL officials in Prague.

Andre Mendes, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Director of BBG described the efforts by U.S. international media and its affiliates to provide news and information in countries such as Russia, Burundi, Nigeria, Turkey, and Iran. He applauded all those present on the work that they do at both RFE/RL and for U.S. international media as a whole. Mr. Mendes reported the following: The continuing efforts to reform the Agency with different projects that focus on staff training and migrating into the digital age; the delay in FY 2015 budget approval which had created surpluses in some areas with the Office of Chief Financial Officer looking for ways to best reallocate those funds for mission-related activities; the status of FY 2016 budget with a proposed budget around \$30 million higher than the previous year; and the preparation of FY 2017 budget that was underway and will be submitted to the Board for its consideration in the coming months.

In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, Governor Kempner invited Veronika Valdova to address the Board for three minutes.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of April 29, 2015. The Board adopted the minutes of the April 29, 2015 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of RFE/RL and 20th Anniversary of Its Move to Prague, Czech Republic. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65th anniversary of RFE/RL and 20th anniversary of its move to Prague, Czech Republic as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring Radio Marti's 30th Anniversary. The Board adopted the resolution honoring Radio Marti's 30th anniversary as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring David Ensor. The Board adopted the resolution honoring David Ensor for his service to the Voice of America as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution on Updated Policy Regarding Non-Disclosure of Deliberative Information. The Board adopted the resolution on updated policy regarding non-disclosure of deliberative information as set forth in Attachment 6.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG Interim CEO and Director Andre Mendes; Executive Director Suzie Carroll; General Counsel and Board Secretary Paul Kollmer-Dorsey; Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran; Kelu Chao, Acting Director of the Voice of America; Carlos Garcia-Perez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting; John Giambalvo, Interim Manager for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Nenad Pejic, RFE/RL Interim Manager; Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia; Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks; and Dan Sreebny, Senior Advisor for BBG, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs.

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Approved:

Jeffrey Shell
Chairman

Witnessed:

Paul Kollmer-Dorsey
Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda for July 1, 2015 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of the April 29, 2015 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of RFE/RL and 20th Anniversary of Its Move to Prague, Czech Republic
4. Resolution Honoring Radio Marti's 30th Anniversary
5. Resolution Honoring David Ensor
6. Resolution on Updated Policy Regarding Non-Disclosure of Deliberative Information

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ATTACHMENT 3

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF RFE/RL BROADCASTING IN THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE TO ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA

OCTOBER 8, 2015

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) was created in 1950 by the National Committee for a Free Europe with the mission to promote democratic values and institutions by broadcasting unbiased and factual information and ideas to audiences behind the communist “Iron Curtain,” and transmitted its first program in the Romanian language to Romania and Moldova on July 14, 1950;

WHEREAS, for much of the Cold War era, RFE/RL’s Romanian Service “Radio Europa Libera” was by far the most listened-to international radio broadcaster in Romania, with more than half of all Romanians tuning-in to its programs every week throughout the 1970’s and 1980’s;

WHEREAS, communist Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu considered the RFE/RL Romanian programs “his worst nightmares,” and sought aggressively to attack both the broadcasts and the journalists involved in creating them, including sponsoring the 1981 bombing of RFE/RL’s headquarters in Munich, West Germany by the international terrorist “Carlos the Jackal;”

WHEREAS, post-Soviet Romanian President Emil Constantinescu in 1997 described RFE/RL’s Communist-era role as “more important than the armies and the most sophisticated missiles. The ‘missiles’ that destroyed Communism were launched from Radio Free Europe, and this was Washington’s most important investment during the Cold War;”

WHEREAS, in 2006, Romanian President Traian Basescu paid homage to Romanian Service journalists who, he said, “fought with altruism and passion for the knowledge and utterance of the truth... Their unforgettable Free Europe broadcasts were the moral conscience of Romanians.”

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2008, RFE/RL ended its broadcasting to Romania, maintaining its Romanian-language broadcasts to the former-Soviet Republic of Moldova and its breakaway Transdniester region;

WHEREAS, today, the Moldovan Service builds upon RFE/RL’s rich Romanian-language broadcast tradition as the most popular international broadcaster in Moldova, providing accurate reporting and analysis and a forum for public debate that expands understanding of local, regional, and global events among its radio, television, and online audiences;

WHEREAS, the Moldovan Service’s reporting is constantly cited by local media, and Service journalists are regularly cited as among the most influential people in the country;

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WHEREAS, the Moldovan Service is leading the way in responding to Russia’s “information war” as it affects Moldova and Russian-dominated Transdnier, by doubling the amount of programming directed at the breakaway region and creating new, daily video and audio programming in both the Romanian and Russian languages for broadcast on public media channels and private affiliate stations; and

WHEREAS the Moldovan Service is one of RFE/RL’s most innovative broadcast services, creating cross-platform content such as its “History of New Europe” project, designed to educate Moldovans about the costs and benefits of European Union membership; “Politigraf,” a program empowering Moldovan citizens by fact-checking the claims made by their leaders; and “Here Is Free Europe,” a one-month bus tour to all parts of Moldova designed to support grass-roots democracy, strengthen local communities and build confidence in the possibility of achieving change in each individual and in society as a whole;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors --

1. Celebrates and commemorates the 65th anniversary of Romanian-language broadcasting by RFE/RL;
2. Congratulates RFE/RL’s Moldovan Service for its continuing commitment to supporting the people of Moldova as they continue the painful transition from communist authoritarianism to building a vibrant, prosperous, and inclusive European nation; and
3. Applauds and thanks current and former journalists, support staff members and freelance contributors of RFE/RL’s Romanian and Moldovan services for their dedication to providing credible, trustworthy, compelling, and professional journalism to all Moldovans seeking access to free and open media.

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ATTACHMENT 4

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S KHMER SERVICE

October 8, 2015

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting in Khmer on August 15, 1955, to provide accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to the Cambodian people;

WHEREAS, the VOA's Khmer Service has served for decades as a vital communications link to the Cambodian people in support of freedom and democracy during the dark days of Khmer Rouge communist rule and through the challenges Cambodian faces today;

WHEREAS, the VOA's Khmer Service has successfully adopted television, online and mobile and social media platforms to reach even greater numbers of Cambodians;

WHEREAS, the VOA's Khmer Service is a leading source of news and information for Cambodians about U.S. official commentary and expert analysis on Cambodia, Southeast Asia and ASEAN, including historic milestones such as the Khmer Rouge Tribunal;

WHEREAS, the VOA's Khmer Service is a unique source of news and information for Cambodians about American society and its achievements in democratic governance, business, medicine, science, technology and the arts, which can serve as an inspiration and a model for Cambodia;

WHEREAS, VOA's Khmer has nurtured and developed successful partnerships with leading Cambodian national television networks such as TVK/Television Kampuchea, CTN/Cambodian Television Network and CNC/Cambodian News Channel and TV 5;

WHEREAS, VOA's Khmer remains a respected source of objective and accurate news and information about Cambodia, the Southeast Asia region, the United States and the world, with a major focus on democratic consolidation and the Cambodian people's aspirations for enhanced relations with the West;

WHEREAS, VOA's Khmer continues to broadcast daily to more than 15 million people in Cambodia; and

WHEREAS, VOA's Khmer is the leading international broadcaster in Cambodia, surpassing its competitors with its audiences on multiple platforms – radio, television, Internet, social media and mobile – and with its TV programs airing on major national networks in Cambodia.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 60th anniversary of the VOA's Khmer Service.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Broadcasting Board of Governors commends and congratulates the current and former members of the VOA's Khmer Service for their dedication in serving the Cambodian people and fostering friendship and the open communication of information and ideas between them and the United States.

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ATTACHMENT 5

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S AFGHANISTAN SERVICE

October 8, 2015

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting in Dari on September 30, 1980, to provide accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to the Afghan people;

WHEREAS, the VOA's Afghanistan Service has served for nearly four decades as a vital communications link to the Afghan people in support of freedom and democracy during the dark days of Communist and Taliban rule and through the challenges Afghanistan faces today;

WHEREAS, the VOA's Afghanistan Service is a leading international broadcaster in Afghanistan, surpassing many competitors with its audience reach on multiple platforms – radio, television, Internet, and social media.

WHEREAS, VOA's Afghanistan Service is a leading source of news and information for Afghanistan about U.S. official commentary and expert analysis on Afghanistan, South and Central Asia and the broader region;

WHEREAS, the VOA's Afghanistan Service is a unique source of news and information for Afghans about American society and its achievements in democratic governance, business, medicine, science, technology and the arts, which can serve as an inspiration and a model for Afghanistan;

WHEREAS, VOA's Afghanistan Service has nurtured and developed successful partnerships with leading Afghan national television networks such as state broadcaster RTA and private channel Yak TV;

WHEREAS, VOA's Afghanistan Service remains a respected source of objective and accurate news and information about Afghanistan, South and Central Asia, the United States and the world, with a major focus on democratic consolidation and the Afghan people's aspirations for enhanced relations with the West; and

WHEREAS, VOA's Afghanistan Service continues to broadcast daily to more than 30 million people in Afghanistan.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 35th anniversary of the VOA's Afghanistan Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Broadcasting Board of Governors commends and congratulates the current and former members of the VOA's Afghanistan Service for their dedication in serving the Afghan people and fostering friendship and the open communication of information and ideas between them and the United States.

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ATTACHMENT 6

RESOLUTION FOR DAVID BURKE DISTINGUISHED JOURNALISM AWARDS

October 8, 2015

WHEREAS, the David Burke Distinguished Journalism Award was named after David W. Burke, who was the founding chairman and leader of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for its first three years;

WHEREAS, the award recognizes courage, integrity and originality in reporting by journalists within the BBG broadcast organizations;

WHEREAS, the broadcasters' stories enlighten and inform listeners and exhibit a commitment to the free exchange of ideas; and

WHEREAS, the submissions for the David Burke Distinguished Journalism Award met the following established criteria:

- Individual's or team's performance in any area of U.S. international media: reporting, broadcasting, writing, editing, filming, producing stories or reports across various platforms.
- An individual or team can be nominated for a single story, a body of work or exceptional performance, such as extreme bravery or hardship in reporting a story.
- The work must inform and enlighten audiences, impacting their lives in a meaningful way. It must exhibit originality.
- The work should exhibit a commitment to the cause of democracy and the free exchange of ideas.
- Permanent or contract employees working for U.S. international media.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors grants an award to the following individuals who demonstrated exceptional performance:

Voice of America (VOA) -- Ibrahim Ahmed: In recognition of Mr. Ahmed's on-the-scene coverage while traveling through Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States during the height of Boko Haram attacks there, and providing stories of survival and resistance to VOA audiences on digital products, on radio and television as well as on the Hausa website that he helped create.

Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) -- Jose Alpizar: In recognition of Mr. Alpizar's work with OCB by singlehandedly nurturing a network of dedicated Cuban citizens to disseminate Radio and Television Marti content on the island.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Baku Bureau: In recognition of the team's uncommon courage, consummate journalistic professionalism, and deep commitment to democracy and free

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speech, as it continued to produce exemplary journalistic content and build audiences in Azerbaijan in the face of intensified government attacks on critical voices; threats, harassment, and arrests of Baku-based journalists; and an illegal December 26 police raid on the bureau that forced it to suspend operations.

Radio Free Asia's Uyghur Reporter -- Shohret Hoshur: In recognition of Mr. Hoshur's exceptional coverage of Xinjiang Province.

Middle East Broadcasting Networks' Producers of Alhurra's *Delusional Paradise* -- Leila Bazzi, Pierre Jad, and George Chewah: In recognition of their work on a thought-provoking documentary series that sheds a light on the atrocities committed by Daesh in a way not often seen on Arab television.

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ATTACHMENT 7

BBG MEETING DATES IN 2016

(ALL MEETINGS ARE AT THE COHEN BUILDING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.)

February 26 (Friday)

April 14 (Thursday)

June 2 (Thursday)¹

September 29 (Thursday)

December 1 (Thursday)

¹ June Board meeting will be held at the headquarters of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting in Miami, FL.