

FO 953/1039	Reasons for difficulty in operating Hellschreiber machine in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (1950)
REF.	CONTENT
Ref. 162A	File binder cover, 2 pages. "Gives reasons for the difficulty to operate the Hellschreiber machine at Belgrade". Note: "Considerable effort was made to provide a service of London Press Service which Belgrade could receive... It now appears that it was neither wanted nor possible to receive". Note: The trouble lies in Belgrade's attitude towards what should constitute an embassy news bulletin. They believe in a "factual" bulletin à la B.B.C. which provides no explanatory comment to put across the British point of view... The Belgrade Information Officer presumably makes little use of the large amount of guidance that we put out... Belgrade news service has been afraid of running afoul of the Yugoslav authorities by appearing to indulge in propaganda."
Ref. 162B	"London Press Service in Belgrade", letter from J.A. Robinson, dated 21 st July 1950, 1 page. Summary: London Press Service is transmitted to Europe by Morse and Hellschreiber; Belgrade is equipped for both. Hellschreiber so far only available on long wave, not audible in Belgrade. Hellschreiber service on short wave is now expected to start in September [1950]
Ref. 162C	Letter from the Information Officer (British Embassy, Belgrade, Yugoslavia) to Foreign Office, Information Policy Department, dated 24 th August 1950, 1 page. Summary: the Yugoslavia area is known for being one of the poorest for good radio reception; this, combined with fluctuating electrical power, make it impossible to get a self-operating Hellschreiber system. Are the results worth the cost? Belgrade meets its need for news service with the BBC bulletin and press comment. Receiving London Press Service via [diplomatic] bag with a week's delay is not a problem. Hellschreiber puts burden on typing staff [for transcribing printed tapes]. The Ambassador fully agrees with these views.
Ref. 162D	Letter from P.L. Carter (Foreign Office, Information Policy Department) to L.G. Durrell (British Embassy, Belgrade, Yugoslavia), dated 18 th September 1950, 1 page. Summary: regrets technical problems, states that London Press Service on short wave just started recently (21 st August 1950) and G.P.O: have never had difficulty with short wave reception in Belgrade. Neither Morse nor Hellschreiber require English-speaking operators. Other Posts in eastern Europe have found local operators. Concludes that Mr. Durrell is not at all convinced of usefulness of L.P.S. News should be amplified by some explanation of the British view, which is what L.P.S. is meant for. Time has come to build the Belgrade news bulletin in content and distribution, as has been done in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.
Ref. 162E	Letter from L.G. Durrell (British Embassy, Belgrade, Yugoslavia) to Mr. P.L. Carter (Foreign Office, Information Policy Department), dated 27 th November (1950), 1 page. Consistent attempts to get Hellschreiber operating without success. "Chancery" has taken over the Hellschreiber for trials, with same unsatisfactory results. Request for sending an expert technician, e.g., from Athens.
Ref. 162F	Draft letter from Mr. P.L. Carter (Foreign Office, Information Policy Department) to Mr. L.G. Durrell (British Embassy, Belgrade, Yugoslavia), dated 27 th November (1950), 2 pages. Summary: response to letter from Mr Durrell of 10 th November 1950 with report dated 24 th October 1950 from visit by Mr. Borrill (Athens engineer) to Belgrade "Hell printer is not working", based on tests on long wave (78 kHz) with a 20 foot [6 m] antenna. Mr. Carter states that London Press Service signals on short wave (31 m band) are strong and without interference. The beam of the 78 kHz transmission is not in direction of Belgrade, and short wave reception in Belgrade should be good.