

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
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7 October 1981
MPA #1036

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- September 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Illustrating the vulnerability of the remote monitoring circuits to local telephone cable conditions, the Managua portion of the Central American system was out for four days at the beginning of the month and seven days at the end of the month due to cable faults in Managua which cut most of the Embassy's phone lines. The bureau maintained coverage on a delayed basis with commercial phonefeeds from our contractors.

Meanwhile, the Guatemala remote circuit was transferred from the Managua-San Salvador line to the second remote circuit established by way of Tegucigalpa on 18 September and the opportunity was taken for extensive and highly productive three-day cruising of Guatemala City transmitters. However, the segment of the new remote circuit which will bring the Tegucigalpa receiver on line cannot be connected until the local telecommunications company completes installation of lines to the Embassy. All other equipment is in place.

2. The bureau attempted extensive cruising of Belize City Domestic Service as the country became independent, using the somewhat-limited HF antennas available at both the Guatemala City and Managua remote sites. The Managua antennas provided the better reception, but this was still poor and unreliable and limited to early morning and late evening broadcasts.

B. Communications

1. The bureau's primary communications were out a total of only 4 hours 32 minutes during the month, all on 9 September, when the Panama Au-

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tomated Relay had computer problems.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Mr. [] Chief, Panama Bureau, departed on PCSTAT Headquarters together with family on 4 September 1981. [] has STAT assigned to the Operations Group, pending his retirement in November.

2. Mr. [] assumed duties as Chief, Panama BSTAT reau, effective 8 September 1981.

3. Editor [] arrived on 30 September to begin herSTAT field editorial training.

4. Teletypist [] reSTAT turned to Panama after more than a month's TDY at the Key West Bureau, were they replaced personnel who were on leave.

5. A small ceremony was held at the bureau on 29 September 1981 to celebrate the promotions of [] STA

III. VISITS

1. HQ Engineer [] visited the Bureau from 28 AugustSTAT through 8 September to supervise recent installations for the second dedicated line.

2. [] Production Group linguist, paid a visitSTAT to the bureau 3-5 September as part of an orientation tour of several South American countries.

[] STAT
Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report
Operations Attachment
Engineering Attachment