

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU

DRAWER 927

APO MIAMI 34004

4 June 1981
MPA #1020

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- May 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial:

With one monitor's resignation, another on extended sick leave, and one still in training, the bureau's manpower was tightly pressed to keep up with a "normal" processing load during the month. Highlighted during May were the death in an air crash of Ecuadorean President Roldos, the Father Roy Bourgeois case in El Salvador, Costa Rica's break with Cuba, and a flareup of border incidents between Nicaragua and neighboring Honduras. At month's end, efforts were underway to fill at least two monitor slots from the bureau's short list of applicants.

B. Training:

Editorial trainee [] departed on 29 May after completing the TDY editorial training program. STAT

C. Coverage:

Paraguay took over responsibility for Peruvian newspapers effective with the issues of 16 May. Panama is retaining its subscriptions as back-stop. Guatemala contractor [] ended her services to the bureau STAT May due to her spouse's reassignment. A replacement phone-feeder, [] STAT has taken over her duties.

D. Technical:

Headquarters engineer [] journeyed to Guatemala City in mid month to install remote-monitoring and telephone-switching equipment in the embassy there, thus adding Guatemala to the bureau's remote monitoring network, which also includes Managua and San Salvador. Plans are well under way to add Tegucigalpa, as work has begun on extending a 4-wire telephone line to that city. As soon as the line is completed, probably in August, [] STAT go to Tegucigalpa to install the necessary equipment there. ✓

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. Effective 7 May, [] was designated deputy chief technician-STAT for a trial period of 6 months. During this period he will assume the responsibilities of chief technician in the latter's absence.

2. Senior monitor [] and teletypist [] STAT were awarded 15-year pins at a special ceremony.

3. On 29 May, the bureau title Monitor Supervisor for Operations was changed to Chief Monitor. [] who held the former title, has been STAT given the new one.

4. Senior monitor [] resigned effective 30 May to take STAT a position with the United Nations in New York.

III. VISITS

1. [] Latin American specialist, 7 and STAT 8 May.

2. [] Headquarters engineer, 6-10 and 18-29 May. STAT

[] STAT
Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report
Operations Attachment
Engineering Attachment

cc: Chief, Paraguay Bureau
Chief, Key West Bureau