

4 May 1981
MPY-0019

Memorandum for: Director, FBIS
Through : Chief, Operations Group
Subject : Paraguay Bureau Monthly Report--April 1981

I. GENERAL

Paraguay's cost of living increased 10.2 percent in January/February 1981. The post was approved for a 5 percent cost of living allowance effective 22 March.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. A brief dissident seizure of a Santiago, Chile mediumwave radio station, Radio Portales, prompted extensive bureau efforts to intercept the transmission, but the brevity of the incident and poor midday reception frustrated the attempts.

2. Tension along the Chilean-Argentine border, including an Argentine closure of the border, drew much attention and generated considerable copy starting 29 April. There were fears of a recurrence of the 1979 military confrontation between the two countries.

3. A confrontation between former Bolivian President Hugo Banzer and the incumbent government at mid-month prompted fears that yet another coup was in the making. But President Luis Garcia Meza was able to assert his authority and place Banzer under house arrest. Here the situation stands at month's end.

4. An extensive new economic program by the Argentine government generated a number of complex economic items during April.

B. Communications

1. Sunspot activity disrupted reception of most high frequencies on April 9, 10 and 24 for an outage time of 6 and 1/2 hours.

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2. Buenos Aires LATIN experienced a 2-hour 15-minutes outage on 21 April due to unknown causes, and a 1/2-hour outage on 22 April due to problems with the New York relay.

3. Paraguay's primary communications circuit was out for 2 hours on 11 April when a power switch to the dish antenna was tripped during emergency generator testing.

4. [redacted] changeover of satellites on 29 April caused a planned communications outage of 3 hours.

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III. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Personnel

1. Editor [redacted] arrived at post 2 April to replace [redacted] [redacted] who departed PCS in March.

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2. The bureau chief departed Asuncion on 19 April for private leave in the United States and to attend the bureau chiefs conference at headquarters.

B. Visitors

1. [redacted] area head of communications, accompanied by [redacted] visited the bureau on 27 April for orientation and briefing.

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2. Maj Jerry Dunbar, foreign area officer from Brasilia, was given a tour of the bureau on 30 April. He was accompanied by CW3 Burnis Back of the Defense Attache's Office.

[redacted]

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A/Chief, FBIS Paraguay Bureau

CC.: Panama Bureau
Attd: Eng, Report
Operations Attachment
Monitor Production Report
Monthly Production Report