

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

PANAMA BUREAU

DRAWER 927

APO MIAMI 34004

4 January 1983
MPA #3001

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- December 1982

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The month opened with a flurry of activity as President Reagan arrived in Colombia on 3 December, visiting Costa Rica that same night and passing through Honduras on 4 December en route home. In the process he met with five area presidents. Full staffing was maintained through the weekend and watches kept on area radios during the Presidential tour. Extensive high precedence filing was used.

2. Preparations for the Presidential visit were complicated by a high-interest inaugural speech by the new Mexican president, which was FYI'ed by Panama Bureau but texted from uncharacteristically good reception at Key West Bureau. This was followed by a Castro speech on 3 December, processing of which was delayed to handle the Reagan visit.

3. A more important Castro speech on 11 December was processed expeditiously, as the premier said Cuba had not re-exported Soviet weapons to Central America.

4. Severe government action against opposition demonstrations in Suriname on 8 December exposed a weakness in coverage of the eastern northern tier area, which cannot be heard in Panama. The Bureau covered Bonaire Trans-World Radio and Hilversum in Spanish to Latin America as the best available secondary sources, but the results were inconclusive and the utility of these stations will have to be studied again during any future crisis.

5. Experimental free trial printing of Hamburg DPA's Spanish satellite service to Latin America began on 10 December. The trial period is 2 months.

6. The FM parallel transmission of Radio Venceremos was briefly off the air during the month as the government swept the area of its transmitter. The FM cast has been very useful as a backstop for poorly-heard reports from the HF cast, which is heavily jammed by the government. The FM cast is fed by the San Salvador contractor the next morning after broadcast.

B. Communications

The phase out of the local Autodin relay, PAR, scheduled for the end of the month, never materialized. Initiation of the Bureau's Mode I circuit is to coincide with the disappearance of the PAR. The new unofficial date for this long-awaited event is now set for March, according to PAR personnel.

C. Lateral Services

In a message to FBIS Headquarters, the American Embassy/Panama City declared that it gives the "greatest importance to the lateral dissemination of FBIS material."

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Panama held a nationwide census on Sunday, 12 December, which required all Panamanians to stay at their residences until counted. Working Bureau personnel had to pre-register and receive special credentials in order to travel to work. There were no problems during the day.

B. Building and Grounds

Security awareness was emphasized for Bureau personnel during the month when two strangers were spotted taking pictures of the Bureau operations building. Senior Secretary [redacted] spotted the two men, both wearing civilian clothes, on the CCTV monitor and immediately alerted Bureau Chief Technician [redacted]. When challenged by [redacted] the men identified themselves as U.S. military personnel and said they were reconnoitering the area in preparation for the annual Kindle Liberty training exercise scheduled for early 1983. Although their ID's appeared to be genuine, several calls were made to military

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units the men said they were with to verify them. This was eventually accomplished, but the process apparently triggered the interest of the local military counterintelligence unit. A Mr Roche, an investigator from the unit, visited the bureau the next day. He was fully briefed on the incident and appeared satisfied nothing was amiss. He noted during the visit, however, that there had been a number of similar incidents recently, not all of which could be explained as easily. Roche complimented the Bureau personnel on their alertness.

III. VISITS

A. To the Bureau: [] a radio information officer for USIS in San Salvador who has provided the Bureau's radio feeds since the inauguration of the remote system there, visited Panama 12-18 December on a personal visit. [] spent one day at the Bureau and several days and nights sampling the sights and sounds of Panama as the guest of various Bureau personnel.

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Major Black from the U.S. Army psyops unit in Panama visited the Bureau 15 December to request assistance in providing recorded broadcast materials for a psyops project being prepared at Ft. Bragg.

A Warrant Officer Fabianni and Sergeant Caballero of the 193d Military Intelligence Company visited the Bureau for a briefing and tour 14 December.

A Mr Roche from the 470th Military Intelligence Group visited the bureau 15 December in connection with Bureau efforts the previous day to confirm the identity of two unannounced visitors who had been seen photographing the Bureau parking area.

B. From the Bureau: The Bureau Chief to see Mr Fulton (Dick) Brecker, SOUTHCOM civilian personnel advisor, regarding pay scale and other personnel policy matters, 10 December.

The Bureau Chief to brief Col Felix Gomez, SOUTHCOM deputy chief of staff for treaty affairs, on INTERNET, 10 December.

The Bureau Chief to brief Ambassador Everett Briggs and DCM Bill Pryce on INTERNET, 13 December.

IV. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

A. The Bureau Social Activities Committee was quite active during the month, sponsoring a picnic for employees and their children at a local park on 5 December and the annual Christmas party on the 12th. Both events were roundly enjoyed by all participants.

B. At the initiative of Panama Bureau's "Santa Claus," teletypist [redacted] bureau employees chipped in again this year to buy Christmas presents and other goodies for underprivileged children. This year [redacted] selected 26 children from the village of Utive. The gifts, including a swing set for a plaza in the Village, were presented at a day-long "fiesta" on 19 December. A number of employees and their families, including monitors [redacted] teletypists [redacted] and technician [redacted] attended. [redacted] prepared food for the group and the children and technician [redacted] and cruising monitor [redacted] hosted the group at their houses. [redacted] has originated such gift-giving expeditions to various localities and organizations over the last several years, including horse-back trips into the mountainous Panamanian interior.

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Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

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Attachments:
Monthly Production Report

cc: Paraguay Bureau
Key West Bureau

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1982

I. TOTAL FROM ALL SOURCES

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	320,480
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	14,990
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	875

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	7,735 min	40,380 min	136.23 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish		5,960	
Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish		0	
Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish		0	

AUSTRIA

Vienna OPECNA in Spanish		200	
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COLOMBIA

Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	6,880		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	9,350		
Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	1,800		
Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish	470		
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			760
Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish			2,280

(CLANDESTINE)

Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	12,670		
Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua	0		
Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua	12,090		

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	14,980		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			6,020

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Spanish	40,670		
Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	11,400		
Havana PRELA in English		850	
ECUADOR			
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	3,510		
Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish	500		
Quito Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		0	
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	450		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish	0		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	0		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	6,310		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	620		
San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish	900		
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			2,300
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			1,240
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			1,300
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			2,780
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			720
San Salvador El Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			540
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		820	
Paris AFP in French		100	

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Paris AFP in Spanish		16,540	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		290	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	1,970		
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	1,360		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	1,840		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	3,440		
Guatemala City Radio Mundial in Spanish	590		
Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish			830
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			230
Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish			60
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	2,330		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	4,930		
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	9,320		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	2,040		
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			1,250
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			830
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			2,310
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			1,640
MEXICO			
Mexico City International Service in Spanish	4,510		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
NICARAGUA			
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	27,680		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	1,530		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	4,160		
Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish	8,200		
Managua International Service in English	590		
Managua International Service in Spanish	160		
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			4,190
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			11,940
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			360
PANAMA			
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	2,420		
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	2,230		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	1,810		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		16,970	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			1,730
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			7,740
Panama City STAR & HERALD IN English			280
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			6,590
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			4,300
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			1,310
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		7,100	

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
UNITED KINGDOM			
London REUTER in French		0	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish	2,170		
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	150		
Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish	1,270		
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			820