

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

5 March 1982
MPA #0008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- February 1982

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

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2. The Costa Rican elections on 7 February were the second in a long series of spring elections through Central and South America. Coming up are votes in Guatemala (7 March), Colombia (14 March and 30 May), El Salvador (28 March), the Dominican Republic (16 May) and Mexico (4 July).

✓ 3. The new bilingual FBIS contractor in Tegucigalpa, [redacted] at mid-month began providing the Bureau with readings from the press and recordings from TV and radio. [redacted]

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4. BBC Monitoring Service Editor for News and Publications, [redacted] visited the Bureau for orientation on FBIS field operations before going to Washington for discussions on MIDAS. [redacted] brought with him expanded BBC requirements for reporting from Latin America, expanded press requirements (all AFP, LATIN and REUTER items), and requirements for all PRIORITY and higher precedence items from all sources.

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5. Damage to a major ANTEL switching center in El Salvador caused by a guerrilla attack indirectly affected our remote circuits for some two weeks, when repair crews blocked signals with unintentional line noise.

6. Panama's INTEL reported that a two-way dedicated circuit from Panama City to Mexico City would cost \$84,000 a year. A less expensive circuit, costing some \$40,000 a year, can be had by extending our existing circuit from Guatemala City.

- 2 -

7. Cruising and coverage developments in February included the following:

✓ + The only known political party program on Salvadoran radio, weekly 20-minute National Conciliation Party program broadcast on Wednesdays, was added to coverage at least until the 28 March elections. The name of the program is "The Hour of Truth."

✓ + Throughout the month the Nicaraguan weekly "Face the People" meetings were not broadcast live over Managua Domestic Service on Friday evenings or in an edited fashion over the Sistema Sandinista Television Network on Monday evenings. The Bureau contractor in Managua confirmed that the meetings had been held in different locations throughout the country and that no explanation had been given for the abrupt suspension of radio and television coverage.

+ Extensive cruising of radio stations in the Eastern Caribbean was accomplished at the request of Key West Bureau. The only two stations in the area that were audible during the cruising period were St Georges Domestic Service on 15045 Khz (fair) and Georgetown Domestic Service on 5950 Khz (poor).

+ Another anti-Castro clandestine station, the "Voice of Cuban Progressive Youth," was heard on 6998 Khz at 0250-0330 GMT on 20 and 23 February with fair to poor reception. No coverage is planned for this station, which broadcasts anti-Castro commentaries and news.

+ An updated list of PRENSA LATINA correspondents was pouched to Headquarters during the month.

B. Communications

1. The Panama Automated Relay was out for a total of 13 hours 10 min during the month, including an 8-hour outage on 7 February. According to the U.S. Army Communications Command, PAR is to be eliminated in 1983, at which time its subscribers will be rehomed to Ft Detrick or another stateside ASC. Elimination of the PAR computer will be a welcome relief. Outmoded software has imposed severe restrictions on the Bureau, especially in heading formats, which have slowed copy and increased teletypist workloads. USACC reports that UNIVAC has refused to service the PAR computer after this year, and a software freeze has been imposed at PAR.

2. Servicing problems on our Telex resulted in a 51-hour outage which began during a PAR outage and put the Bureau entirely out of business for a while.

- 3 -

3. The Bureau's Communications Section was severely pressed during the month when Teletypist [] had to take extended sick leave after damaging a nerve in her finger while on annual leave. An operation to restore the nerve followed by physical therapy may be required. STAT

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. [] began preemployment processing during the month and will be offered a position as Spanish monitor trainee if she completes it successfully. One of two other candidates, selected from among 87 who applied for the position, will be selected in early March to fill a second monitor position which will become open in May when Spanish Monitor [] retires. STAT

2. Senior Spanish Monitor [] retired effective COB 19 February after more than 23 years of service with FBIS. [] was feted at a bureau party given by her colleagues on 13 February and was awarded an FBIS retirement plaque and the FBIS Career Medal for distinguished service at a small bureau ceremony on the 19th. STAT

B. Building and Grounds

1. [] a mechanical engineer visiting from Headquarters at the bureau's request, arrived at month's end to study the bureau airconditioning system. It is hoped that [] will be able to make recommendations that will result in more efficient use of the airconditioning plant. STAT

2. Two large brush fires roared through the bureau antenna field during the month. No damage resulted, but the fire department was called on both occasions to keep the blaze under control.

C. Other

Mr James H. Woods of the Latin America Branch, International Division, General Accounting Office, visited the bureau 9 February to discuss costs and savings to the bureau in FY 81 in connection with implementation of the Panama Canal Treaties.

III. VISITS

To the Bureau: Maj Frank Field, 4th Psyops Group, Ft Bragg, North Carolina; Mr James H. Woods, Latin America Branch, International Division, General Accounting Office; [] Editor for News and Publications, BBC Monitoring Service; [] Headquarters Engineer. STAT

From the Bureau: Bureau Chief to Ltc Manny Fernandez, Planning Officer U.S. Southcom Treaty Affairs Staff.

- 4 -

IV. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

A reception was held at the Bureau on 26 February to mark the 41st anniversary of FBIS. Longevity certificates were presented to a number of Bureau employees on the occasion.

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Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachment:
Monthly Production Report

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1982

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	358,140
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	15,690
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,045

	BROAD CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	8,245 min	48,630 min	111.00 issues

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

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish	11,000
Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish	0
Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish	0

AUSTRIA

Vienna OPECNA in Spanish	0
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COLOMBIA

Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	6,210
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	2,730
Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	3,550
Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish	2,460

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(CLANDESTINE)

Radio Venceremos in Spanish to el Salvador	25,630
Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	16,210
Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua	4,900

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	7,570
San Jose Domestic Service in Spanish	2,440

-2-

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			2,880
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Spanish	10,280		
Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	4,910		
Havana PRELA in English		4,560	
Havana PRELA in Spanish		3,920	
ECUADOR			
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	7,070		
Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish	380		
Quito Domestic Service in Spanish	2,090		
Quito Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		0	
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	2,380		
San Salvador Cadena YSKL in Spanish	190		
San Salvador Cadena Sonora in Spanish	840		
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			10,690
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			2,300
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			6,860
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			1,510
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		4,140	
Paris AFP in Spanish		23,320	

-3-

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	1,660		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	5,110		
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	3,140		
Guatemala City Trecevision in Spanish	470		
Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish			700
Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish			0
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			990
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			0
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	2,020		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish	6,190		
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	6,380		
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			1,860
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			630
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			800
MEXICO			
Mexico City International Service in Spanish	0		
		1,220	
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	1,120		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	21,920		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	16,160		
Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish	14,310		

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-4-

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish	10,930		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	3,510		
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		1,050	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			2,760
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			4,010
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			7,490
PANAMA			
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	1,620		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	8,520		
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	1,860		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		17,240	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			2,050
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			7,740
Panama City STAR & HERALD in English			50
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			3,010
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in English			0
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			2,240
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			7,930
Panama City YA in Spanish			830
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			1,060
PERU			
Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish			0
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		13,040	

-5-

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS	
SURINAME				
<input type="text"/>		2,060		STAT
		140		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London REUTER in English		0		
London REUTER in French		0		
VENEZUELA				
Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish	900			
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	410			
<input type="text"/>		1,990		STAT