

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

5 February 1982
MPA #0003

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

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

I. GENERAL

A. Monitor Recruiting -- The recruiting process to fill two upcoming monitorial vacancies proceeded through the month. From more than 70 applications received in response to our advertisement, about 20 applicants, considered to have sufficient potential on the basis of resumes, were selected for testing. This process is nearing completion. Although no truly outstanding candidates have been found thus far, several appear to merit further discussion regarding a job offer.

B. Highway Construction -- It was discovered at month's end that despite refusal of the U.S. side to grant permission for Panamanian crews to transit the Bureau's antenna field, survey work for the Pacific Coast Highway was moving ahead. The survey crews, which were crossing the antenna field in spite of the ban, had already marked out a path for the road passing along the southern edge of the antenna field. Although a definite improvement over the route change for the road submitted by the Panamanian side in November, the new path will still cause emission and security problems for the bureau. We reported the survey activity to the Southcom Treaty Affairs Staff and were assured again the U.S. side would not approve any route for the new road which would adversely affect bureau operations.

C. Editor Training Program -- The Bureau's Editorial Training/Evaluation Program has been modified considerably with the new year by the new training officer, Among the changes are:

STAT

a. A restructuring of the program itself, within the basic 12 week/ 3 phase system, to reflect MIDAS and to achieve a more logical transition, in exposure and training, from the relatively simple to the more complex elements in field operations and slotwork.

b. A new set of training materials, involving written guidance linked wherever possible to concrete examples and ranging from operational aspects--selection, precedence, formats, FYI's/service messages, flags, slugs and editing--to shift supervision and relations

- 2 -

with local staff.

c. An updated series of some 20 training exercises, many of them timed, intended to simulate real experience and sequenced to reflect the new "simple-to-complex" program structure.

d. A 1-hour closed book written examination, taken in the 4th week, to give both trainee and supervisor an accurate assessment of the trainee's knowledge to date.

e. A revamping of the evaluation system, including revision of the evaluation questionnaire used in the 7th and 10th weeks to more accurately reflect necessary skills, knowledge and conduct.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. An agreement was signed with ICA in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 31 January providing the services of an ICA local employee to record and feed selected radio and tv programming and newspaper articles via our remote circuit. This arrangement is similar to arrangements with the Embassies in Managua and San Salvador. Problems with the telephone equipment in Tegucigalpa have delayed the start of the feeds. We expect these to be resolved shortly.

2. The bureau's coverage of clandestine stations expanded again with the appearance over one weekend of two new Salvadoran clandestines--one, Radio Farabundo Marti, broadcasting twice daily for the Popular Liberation Forces faction of the FMLN; and the other, Radio Unity, broadcasting only on weekends. Marti has proved to be reliably heard and productive; Radio Unity is poorly heard and deals mainly with local issues. Meanwhile, the clandestine anti-Castro station Radio Mambi, was dropped from coverage on the advice of FCS.

3. Two press agencies continue of interest: One is the Vienna OPECNA Spanish-language cast carried by Madrid EFE, which provides the translation. The initial impression is that this service carries some unique items on regional petroleum affairs. [REDACTED]

4. The bureau continues the unsuccessful search for a productive Venezuelan radio newscast. Another Radio Rumbos cast was dropped after producing three items during the month. This lack of primary coverage continues to be a source of concern.

STAT
STAT

- 3 -

5. The highlight of operational action during the month was the 27 January hijacking of a Colombian Aerotal Boeing 727 with 128 passengers. The bureau maintained open watch on Colombian, Panamanian and Cuban radios during the 2-day hijacking, which required one mid-shift. The hijackers, after freeing all their hostages, finally flew to Cuba.

6. The hijacking occurred on the same day as the inauguration of the new president of Honduras. Extensive coverage of this event by the Honduran media had already provided the bureau with a wealth of items awaiting processing, including interviews with the principals from the three countries which had a few days earlier established the new Central American Democratic Community--apparently aimed at Nicaragua. Visiting Nicaraguan coordinator Daniel Ortega, attempting reconciliation with the new regime, got into a live brouhaha with the Honduran press, which criticized him strongly.

7. Coverage of Ecuador was expanded to watch the deteriorating Ecuadorean political situation as the leadership fell apart over personal issues leading to mass governmental and military resignations.

B. Communications

The bureau's Autodin line was finally restored to full operation.

STAT

C. Lateral Services

1. In response to a request from Liaison and Requirements Branch, the bureau reviewed consumer requirements for local services and filed a revised list to Headquarters. One consumer was found to have been serviced for some time without a formal submission of requirements.

2. The bureau responded to two requests for special materials for Southcom CINC Lt Gen Nutting during the month. With a very able assist from FCS we were able to provide within a matter of hours up-to-date figures on Cuban and Soviet broadcasting to Latin America for a speech the general was making the next day. A second request, for a compilation of materials filed on a conference on racial discrimination held in Managua in December, was relayed through the Embassy Political Section. A full response was provided.

D. Technical

The bureau Chief and Chief Technician paid a visit to the local Canon representative 28 January for a demonstration of the new Canon facsimile telecopier. The reproductive quality of this equipment appeared good enough to warrant additional testing on our Central American remote

- 4 -

circuit. The dealer has agreed informally to loan us two machines for this purpose. Headquarters' views have been requested.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Bureau local employees were hit with a substantial increase in health insurance rates 1 January. Employee and employer premiums increased approximately 91 % and 12% respectively for bureau employees under the family plan and 93% and 14% for those under single coverage.

2. A new Panama Area Wage Base, which applies to bureau employees hired after 30 September 1979, became effective 10 January. The new wage base provides for annual step increases of approximately 2% per year as well as annual 2% increase in the wage base itself. Only two bureau employees are affected by the change. New wage schedules were pouched to Headquarters.

3. Editor [] arrived 4 January to participate in the bureau's 12-week editorial training/evaluation program. STAT

4. Editor [] received a well-deserved promotion to GS-12 Senior Editor effective 10 January. STAT

5. Monitor Supervisor [] requested an additional 60 days leave without pay during the month. [] has been on annual leave and LWOP since mid-December. The request has been forwarded to Headquarters for approval. STAT
STAT

6. Spanish Monitor [] has begun paperwork for retirement in early May. The appropriate documents will be forwarded to Headquarters when completed. STAT

B. Buildings and Grounds

[] STAT

IV. VISITS

A 3-day visit to the bureau by [] 12-15 January proved most useful to all concerned. STAT

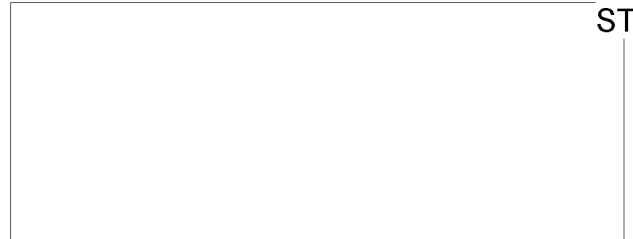
- 5 -

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A. Bureau personnel contributed clothing and other essentials to aid victims of a disastrous fire which swept through a crowded residential area of Panama City during the month leaving hundreds of persons homeless with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

B. Bureau employees celebrated the beginning of the annual dry season and [redacted] promotion at a reception held in the bohio next to the operations building 25 January.

STAT



STAT

Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

attachments:

Monthly Production Report
Operations Attachment
Engineering Attachment

OPERATIONS ATTACHMENT

PANAMA BUREAU MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 1982

Cruising observations and projects during the month included:

1. With the upcoming elections the Salvadoran regime has started to loosen its restrictions on local reporting by the broadcast media, and the radio and television stations are slowly beginning to broadcast local reports. A watch is also being maintained for any worthwhile political party programs.
2. (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua has expanded its 45-min 0300GMT newscasts to 0430 GMT. A report on the new sections being featured in this newscast was filed.
3. Efforts to find a political party cast of monitoring interest in Costa Rica in view of the upcoming elections were unsuccessful. Only publicity-type material is being aired.
4. Following a productive sample period the 0050-0130 GMT evening cast of Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas was added to coverage. The 1720-1730 GMT newscast of the Central American network SERCANO was also sampled during the month, but did not merit regular coverage.
5. Updated observations were also made on Caracas Radio Rumbos Network and on the two Central American radio networks, SERCANO and OIR.
6. Paris AFP in Spanish was observed carrying a weekly cast entitled "MAGAZINE" at 0500-0700 GMT on Wednesday. The cast is devoted to cultural and intellectual events and developments in Europe and Latin America.
7. Updated observations were filed regarding piggyback services transmitted by main and feeder press agency circuits as follows:
 - a. Buenos Aires LATIN - The New York Times Service
 - b. Madrid EFE - Vienna OPECNA in Spanish
 - c. Havana PRELA in Spanish - The POOL of the news agencies of the nonaligned countries, and the New Delhi, Lima and Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Services.

STAT

ENGINEERING ATTACHMENT TO THE
PANAMA BUREAU MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 1982

ACCOUNTABLE PROPERTY

Received:

1. One Extel ASR's, Model 315-PS-8K, Serial No.0236189, Requisition No.0532-81121-011-1F. Received 31 December 1981. Unit Price: \$5,211.94.
2. Two each Stelma Modem, Model 674(P)/G Serial No.65 and No.783. Requisition No.0532-81168-014-1F. Received 22 January. Unit Price: \$710.00.
3. Three EDS Dual Recorder Timers, Model DRC-313A, Serial Nos: 205, 204, and 203. Received 31 December 1981. Unit Price: \$624.00

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JANUARY 1982

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	345,860
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	15,020
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FIELD:DURING MONTH:	1,067

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	8,015 min	48,630 min	111.00 issues

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

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish	6,910
Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish	0
Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish	0

AUSTRIA

Vienna OPECNA in Spanish	80
--------------------------	----

COLOMBIA

Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	290
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	5,830
Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	5,200
Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish	3,230
Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish	700

(CLANDESTINE)

Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	25,670
Radio Unity in Spanish to El Salvador	580
Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	5,210
Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua	5,530



1,070

STAT

-2-

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
COSTA RICA			
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	6,510		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			490
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Spanish	8,480		
Havana PRELA in English		340	
Havana PRELA in Spanish		8,880	
ECUADOR			
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	10,350		
Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish	4,190		
Quito Domestic Service in Spanish	4,460		
Quito Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		0	
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	2,390		
San Salvador YSR Television Service in Spanish	220		
San Salvador Cadena YSKL in Spanish	2,710		
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			6,050
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			3,670
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			5,420
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			650
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			2,720
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		1,140	
Paris AFP in Spanish		33,340	

-3-

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	950		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	3,920		
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	3,530		
Guatemala City Radio Horizonte in Spanish	120		
Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTROAMERICA in Spanish			1,680
Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish			0
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1,410
Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish			0
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	14,440		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish	3,400		
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	3,870		
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			1,390
MEXICO			
Mexico City International Service in Spanish	0		
		790	STAT
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	2,080		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	8,000		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	31,330		
Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish	9,870		
Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish	14,780		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	6,930		
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		0	

-4-

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			3,480
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			1,740
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			1,450
PANAMA			
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	150		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	7,110		
Panama City Circiuito RPC Television in Spanish	4,280		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		21,770	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			1,890
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			3,080
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			5,430
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in English			0
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			1,210
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			2,200
PERU			
Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish			0
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		13,380	
SURINAME			
			0
UNITED KINGDOM			
London REUTER in English		220	
London REUTER in French			0

STAT

-5-

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish	570		
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	310		
Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish	2,350		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 280px; height: 35px; display: inline-block;"></div>		4,440	STAT