

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

7 November 1985
MPA-5043

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report — Panama Bureau — October 1985

I. GENERAL

STAT The bureau chief and bureau chief technician [redacted] made another of their twice-yearly swings through the remote sites in STAT Managua, San Salvador, Tegucigalpa, and Guatemala City. AG analyst STAT [redacted] accompanied them. Without exception, embassy officers at the four sites praised FBIS efforts and contributions and indicated they saw no obstacles to our continuing to work with contractors out of embassies. The DCM in San Salvador, David Passage, was particularly lavish in his praise of FBIS. In a meeting initiated by him, he said that the FBIS product is the single most important service to the embassy and that FBIS-monitored reports from the clandestine Salvadoran radios are the key ingredient in assessments of the threat to U.S. personnel in the country. Briefly, other highlights of the trip were the hiring of a backup contractor in Guatemala City; the successful test of the NEFAX machine on the dedicated line from Tegucigalpa, thus indicating that the way is now clear to placing these machines at the other remote sites using the dedicated lines; agreement by the embassy in Managua to raise and refurbish our longwire antenna on the roof; and confirmation that space for the FBIS operation has been factored into the plans for a new embassy in Tegucigalpa.

STAT After their visit to the remote sites, the bureau chief and STAT [redacted] stopped in San Jose, Costa Rica. [redacted] proceeded on to Key West.) There the bureau chief briefed embassy officers on plans for a cruising survey in northern Costa Rica in early December. The major target is to be Nicaraguan transmitters. The survey should provide information on them which would be useful in the event of a break in U.S.-Nicaraguan relations resulting in the loss of our remote site in Managua. The embassy concurred in the plans and offered full assistance.

✓ Bureau production during the month topped 600,000 words. This was the second highest figure in bureau history, surpassed only by the 608,000 in May 1985. ROSET contributed significantly to the monthly total, allowing us to monitor and process from United Nations pass-feeds the speeches before the General Assembly of Nicaragua's Ortega (in Spanish), Israel's Peres, the UK's Thatcher, Pakistan's Ziaul Haq, and Suriname's Bouterse (all in English).

-2-

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

El Salvador was the focus of watch efforts throughout most of October, as President Jose Napoleon Duarte held protracted negotiations with the FMLN for the release of his eldest daughter, Ines. The guerrillas kept up their military attacks and sabotage actions during the negotiations, including a large-scale attack on an Armed Forces training center in which more than 40 persons were killed. Ines Guadalupe Duarte Duran was eventually released on 24 October, in an operation in which 96 guerrillas were exchanged for Ms. Duarte, a friend who was abducted along with her, and 9 Salvadoran mayors who were being held by the rebels.

Nicaragua continued to hold the lead in production, accounting for more than 20 percent of our total filed wordage for the month. Leading Nicaraguan events included a war of words between President Daniel Ortega and Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero that led to a break in diplomatic relations on 11 October; the imposition of a 1-year state of emergency on 15 October, resulting in curtailed civil rights, censorship of news media, and increased friction with the Catholic Church. Also during the month President Daniel Ortega traveled to the United Nations, where he delivered two speeches — as the Nicaraguan head of state and as the representative to the Movement of Nonaligned Countries. While in New York Ortega participated in a "Face the People" meeting in a synogogue, and he appeared with his wife on the Phil Donahue television program.

With opposition to the military-backed Panamanian Government continuing into October, Panama held the second highest production figure for the month. The current anti-government protests of student and citizen marches, labor and hunger strikes, and prayer meetings sparked by last month's brutal murder of guerrilla fighter Hugo Spadafora, has been the longest and best orchestrated drive by the opposition in years. Widespread public discontent over the murder persists, contributing to the success of the drive, which prompted defense forces/government media attacks on local U.S. officials, accusing them of advising the opposition and financing the protest movements. As the month drew to a close the situation remained unsettled, with the government charging the opposition with "sedition."

All hopes of a peaceful agreement between the government and the guerrillas seem to have been lost in Colombia, where the military situation has deteriorated to a point which one military officer described as a "state of war." Although the M-19 continues to lead in the number of bloody confrontations with the Army, clashes have also been reported with the other two leading guerrilla groups, the ELN and the FARC. The M-19, however, continues to be the most militarily active of the three groups.

In Cuba, President Fidel Castro played host to six visiting heads of state during October. The heads of state of Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Sri Lanka, and India visited Cuba on their way to or from a meeting of British Commonwealth countries in Nassau, Bahamas. Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos visited Cuba on 24 October.

-3-

B. Communications

Serious disruptions of the bureau's Mode V AUTODIN communications owing to problems at the Panama Automated Relay (PAR) continued well into the second week in October. The disruptions that began on 12 September forced us to rely heavily on our TELEX altroute. TELEX charges for the month exceeded \$10,000. Despite the documented circuit problems in September, PAR's monthly COMOPS report outrageously declared the bureau's circuit operated with 99.38 percent efficiency during the period. The bureau responded with a formal Unsatisfactory Service Report to DCA headquarters detailing our many problems with PAR's performance. A similar Unsatisfactory Service Report for the month of October is also being considered.

C. Lateral Services

The bureau provided the American Embassy in San Salvador with a recording of a 13 October Radio Farabundo Marti commentary that attacked a homily delivered by Msgr. Gregorio Rosas Chavez, Auxiliary Bishop of San Salvador. We also provided headquarters Analysis Group and subsequently the American Embassy in San Salvador with a compendium of all monitored references by the Salvadoran Clandestine radios (Venceremos and Farabundo Marti) to the Pedro Pablo Castillo Front, which was credited with the kidnapping of President Duarte's daughter.

John Hamilton of U.S. Special Ambassador to Central America Harry Shlaudeman's staff, in Panama in early October during a session of the Contadora Group, asked to be alerted to key developments in the Contadora session. Bureau editors called him several times in response to his request.

Also during the month, the bureau provided U.S. SOUTHCOM officers with background issues of the Nicaraguan exile publication NICARAGUA HOY.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Assistant Communications Supervisor received a promotion from FBN-5/9 to FBN-6/7 effective 27 October 1985.

The bureau chief, at an appropriate champagne ceremony, presented on behalf of D/FBIS a \$300 excellence award to the FBIS contractor in San Salvador, This is the first such award presented to a contractor at one of our remote sites.

B. Building and Grounds

STAT Contractor [redacted] completed work on the boxes for circuit breakers for the additional ROSET antennas.

STAT Contractor [redacted] completed the staff secretary's booth in the bureau library and enlarged the window between the editorial and communications rooms.

STAT The Army's DEH resurfaced the parking area of Building [redacted] with two inches of hot plant mix asphalt. The project has been pending since 1982.

STAT Contractor [redacted] completed the fourth mowing of the antenna field.

C. Miscellaneous

On the economic front, Gorgas Hospital has raised the cost of out-patient visits and treatment from \$53.00 to \$55.00. This is consistent with the policy worldwide at Department of Defense facilities. On the good news side, the cost of gasoline at base service stations dropped from \$1.24 a gallon to \$1.03 a gallon.

IV. VISITS

STAT Deputy Chief/Operations Group [redacted] visited the bureau on 1 and 2 October. During the visit, his first to Panama, he met with the ambassador and DCM and other embassy officers.

STAT AG Analyst [redacted] visited the bureau for orientation on 18 October, prior to his departure, with the bureau chief and bureau chief technician, for a tour of the Central American remote sites.

STAT Bureau chief technician [redacted] TDY'ed to Key West Bureau early in the month. On the same trip, he visited the Miami I&NS office to discuss PRA status for his family.

STAT [redacted]
Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachment:
Production Report

Panama Bureau Production Report for October 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	600860
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	23680
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1469

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	10765.00 min.	42570.00 min.	208.00 issues

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

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish		3110	
Buenos Aires REUTER in English		4560	

CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	10930		
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	35960		

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	1430		
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	3750		
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	9210		
Bogota REUTER in English		840	
Bogota REUTER in Spanish		370	
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish			7570
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			5260

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	4550		
--------------------------------------	------	--	--

- 2 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	11590		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			6230
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			620
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			8660
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			1440
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			1850
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			1050
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	1270		
Havana International Service in Spanish	47510		
Havana Television Service in Spanish	1210		
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		6780	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		14020	
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	1500		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	3910		
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	2730		
San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish	1250		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	3600		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	2760		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	4940		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	8390		
San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish	470		

- 3 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			290
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			6250
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			4320
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			1960
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		1200	
Paris AFP in Spanish		31260	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		9220	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	2960		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	350		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	3940		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			2400
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			2880
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	8160		
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	6170		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	2290		

- 4 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	2340		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	3140		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			1120
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			8270
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			880
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			0
MEXICO			
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	4270		
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	1270		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		940	
Mexico City REUTER in English		270	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			6320
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			0
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			1610
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			5270
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			2400
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			1060
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	2160		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	36080		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	2270		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	36280		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	4030		

- 5 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua ANN in Spanish		19290	
Managua ANN in English		1870	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		2970	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			17290
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			3710
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			1880
PANAMA			
Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish	530		
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	1970		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	6650		
Panama City PANAVISION Television in Spanish	720		
Panama City Radio Cadena Millonaria in Spanish	150		
Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish	0		
Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish	1530		
Panama City TELEMETRO Television in Spanish	480		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	5440		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		28350	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			4960
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			0
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			5070
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			4390
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			5380
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			9670
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			0

- 6 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			4840
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			6860
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			320
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			1280
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
PERU			
Lima REUTER in English		250	
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		23440	
U. S. A.			
New York United Nations Television Service in English	6790		
New York ANN in Spanish		920	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	140		
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	5290		
Caracas REUTER in English		1090	
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			2620
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			1770

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in English	4,560
Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish	170

COLOMBIA

Bogota Television Service in Spanish	9,210
Bogota REUTER in English	840
Bogota REUTER in Spanish	370

CUBA

Havana PRENSA LATINA in English	530
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	14,020

MEXICO

Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	4,270
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	1,270
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	940
Mexico City REUTER in English	270

NICARAGUA

Managua ANN in English	1,870
Managua ANN in Spanish	19,290
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	2,970

PERU

Lima REUTER in English	250
---------------------------	-----

SPAIN

Madrid EFE in Spanish	560
--------------------------	-----

-2-

U.S.A.	
New York United Nations Television Service in English	6,790
New York ANN in Spanish	920
VENEZUELA	
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	5,290
Caracas REUTER in English	1,090
	<hr/>
TOTALS FOR OCTOBER 1985	75,480