

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
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6 May 1985
MPA-5024

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

I. GENERAL

May 1985 was a record-breaking month, with a total of 608,520 publishable words filed, an all-time high. While the bulk of coverage came from the Central American region, the leading coverage event was the launching of the U.S. anti-Castro station Radio Marti. Cuba reacted swiftly to the move by suspending the immigration agreements with the United States; the first report on the suspension came from our ROSET monitoring of PRELA circuits. Within a matter of hours of the startup of Radio Marti we dispatched one of our senior monitors to Key West Bureau for a two-week TDY to assist in covering Cuban reaction, and we went into a 24-hour operation for the better part of two weeks. During this time we monitored Havana International's English and Spanish services continuously and cruised all of its international shortwave transmissions, particularly its English-language programs beamed to the United States. Our intensive ROSET coverage of PRELA circuits resulted in the loss of important television coverage from Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia.

Communications problems continued to plague bureau operations during May. Outages totaling 93 hours were experienced. As is usual, none of the outages were caused by in-house problems, all of them resulting instead from problems at the army communications facility at Corozal. A 10-day outage of our primary communications circuit, the longest outage in the bureau's history, was finally corrected by army technicians on 3 May and, on 25 May, a 14-hour outage caused when power problems at Corozal interrupted the bureau microwave communications resulted in a total communications loss including primary and telex circuits, all telephone lines, and bureau Central America remote circuits. As a result of these problems, the bureau deputy chief, chief technician, and communications chief are examining alternatives; these will be presented for Headquarters consideration later in the summer.

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II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

In Nicaragua, the month opened with strident Nicaraguan criticism of the U.S. embargo and the recall for consultations of the Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States, but the regime seemed to be making some efforts to patch fences on several fronts.

A group of Cuban military advisers left Nicaragua on 2 May as a "concession" by President Daniel Ortega to pave the way for a resumption of talks with the United States. President Ortega also extended his East Bloc funds-seeking tour to include several West European capitals, in what could be seen as an attempt to assuage the anxiety caused by his stops in Havana and Moscow.

On the home front the Sandinists made efforts to resolve their differences with the MISURASATA faction led by Brooklyn Rivera and with the ARDE faction led by Eden Pastora, at the latter's insistence. Both of these ventures ended in failure, and at month's end Pastora was on his way to the United States to seek economic assistance to continue his anti-FSLN struggle while the FSLN was announcing the beginning of a "heavy offensive" against Pastora's forces.

Fighting against the ARDE and FDN rebels continued during May, however, with the usual share of border incidents with neighboring Honduras and Costa Rica. The Sandinist Peoples Army shelled a Honduran border area early in May, and on 31 May EPS soldiers attacked a Costa Rican Civil Guard patrol, straining relations with Costa Rica almost to the breaking point.

Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge presented a lengthy state-of-the-nation speech on 1 May that accounted for a significant increase in wordage and in Honduras, the Suazo administration's confrontation with the Supreme Court and with the peasants and workers association demanded close attention until it was resolved in mid-month.

In El Salvador, rebel attacks continued as the Duarte administration and FMLN-FDR remained in a stalemate over the details of the next round of peace talks. In Guatemala, the Constituent Assembly presented the nation's new constitution to President Mejia Victores on 31 May. General elections are now slated for 3 November.

The Panamanian cabinet resigned en masse on 3 May following the ruling coalition's demand for more posts in the administration. This demand, which was granted in a revamped cabinet announced on 5 May, added fuel to opposition demonstrations organized and held on 6 May, the anniversary of President Ardito Barletta's first year in office.

We have reached an agreement with a local contractor to furnish copies of the Cuban newspapers GRANMA, JUVENTUD REBELDE, and TRABAJADORES on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Several copies of the newspapers were furnished on a trial basis, and were air mailed to ELAAD after scanning and selection.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

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SIAI
STAT
Six new local employees entered on duty during the month: cruising monitor [redacted]; Spanish monitors [redacted] and [redacted] associate editor [redacted] and teletypist [redacted]

STAT
Spanish Monitor [redacted] received a PSI from FBN-6/1 to 6/2, effective 12 May 1985.

STAT
Spanish Monitor [redacted] departed Panama 20 May 1985 on a two-week TDY to Key West Bureau.

STAT
STAT
Editor [redacted] departed Panama 31 May upon completion of a three-month editorial training stint, and editor [redacted] arrived Panama 13 May to begin his three-month editorial training.

STAT
STAT
Radio operator [redacted] resigned on 24 May to accept a position as full electronic technician at the GTE of Panama. We have found a replacement, [redacted] now in the preemployment processing stage.

STAT
STAT
On 24 May a farewell barbeque was held in the bohio for [redacted] and for the departing [redacted]

B. Building and Grounds

STAT
Contractor [redacted] completed modifications and a partition in the communication room.

The long-simmering issue of where to place the Panama municipal dump came to a head on 23 May when we were told by SOUTHCOM's Treaty Affairs officers that a new dump site was being prepared at Cerro Patacon, about four kilometers from the bureau. According to the officers, SOUTHCOM has authorized the use of the Chiva Chiva Road as an access road to the dump for thirty days only. After that, access must be through non-military land from the Tumba Muerto Highway. There is obvious SOUTHCOM concern over the use of the Chiva Chiva Road, but there is even more concern over the effect the dump might have on the water table, as several of the small streams which run through Ft. Clayton and Albrook Air Force Station also traverse the dump site. To date we have experienced a notable increase in traffic on the Chiva Chiva Road and a predictable deterioration of the road surface; we have also learned, from newspaper reports, that the thirty-day limit may be extended to allow more time for construction of the alternate road to the dump from the Tumba Muerto Highway.

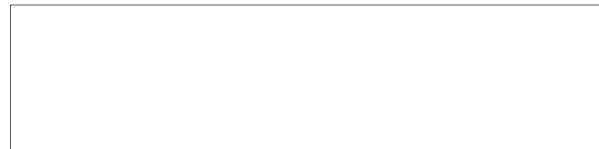
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V. VISITS

STAT Bangkok Bureau's Deputy Chief-designate spent a profitable four days of TDY at the bureau from 21 to 24 May, focusing on the ROSET's.

Other visitors during the month were

- + Counsel General James Hughes;
- + Col. Paul Morgan, new Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G-2), accompanied by one staff officer and two civilians from his component;
- + SOUTHCOM (J-2) operations watch officers Captains Susong and Philbin;
- + Mr. M. F. Connolly, Special Assistant for Command Support in SOUTHCOM;
- + Five staffers from the Army's Program Support Group;
- + Three representatives from LATIN/REUTER Press Agency -- Graham Williams (Editorial Chief/Central America), Berd Debusman (Correspondent Chief/Central America), and Fernando Plata (Sales Executive/Central America).



Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachment:
Production Report

Panama Bureau Production Report for May 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	608520
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	24860
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1562

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	11280.00 min.	42300.00 min.	206.00 issues

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

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires LATIN in
Spanish

3040

CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in
Spanish to El Salvador

9670

Clandestine Radio Venceremos in
Spanish to El Salvador

27200

Clandestine Voice of Sandino in
Spanish to Nicaragua

0

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in
Spanish

3390

Bogota Domestic Service in
Spanish

2090

Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in
Spanish

5130

Bogota Television Service in
Spanish

2270

Bogota EL SIGLO in
Spanish

4090

Bogota EL TIEMPO in
Spanish

9240

COSTA RICA

San Jose Domestic Service in
Spanish

10480

San Jose Radio Impacto in
Spanish

6440

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	9720		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			4110
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			240
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			5510
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			750
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			5370
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			0
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	320		
Havana International Service in Spanish	57020		
Havana International Service in English	1930		
Havana EFE in Spanish		210	
Havana PRELA in English		32530	
Havana PRELA in Spanish		24270	
Havana GRANMA in Spanish			350
Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish			670
Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish			480
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	1800		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	3980		
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	5980		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	4400		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	16790		
San Salvador NOTISAL in Spanish		250	
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			440
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			3080
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			2780
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			3490
San Salvador ORIENTACION in Spanish			480
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		290	
Paris AFP in Spanish		17290	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		6810	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	2640		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	1010		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	1260		
Guatemala City Radio Sonora in Spanish	450		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	5030		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			1020
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			2710

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	11470		
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	6380		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	3070		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	0		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	10820		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			2810
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			13670
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			4860
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			790
MEXICO			
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3490		
Mexico CityXHDF Television Network in Spanish	6510		
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			5110
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			990
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			2870
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			10830
Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish			360
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			1340
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			2060
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	5870		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	35640		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	2860		
Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish	31640		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	17540		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	1930		
Managua ANN in Spanish		10660	
Managua ANN in English		370	
Managua PRELA in Spanish		5890	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			10220
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			550
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			6120
PANAMA			
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	2880		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	3050		
Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish	1450		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	5000		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		18340	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			750
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			1520
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			910
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			1340
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			6180
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			4890
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			0
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			960

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			1750
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			0
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			710
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		23680	
Madrid PRELA in Spanish		420	
USSR			
Moscow TASS in Spanish		780	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	110		
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	6370		
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			1820
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			390

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MAY 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

COLOMBIA	
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	2,270
CUBA	
Havana PRELA in Spanish	24,270
Havana EFE in Spanish	210
EL SALVADOR	
San Salvador NOTISAL in Spanish	250
MEXICO	
Mexico City XEV Television Network in Spanish	3,490
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	6,510
NICARAGUA	
Managua ANN in English	370
Managua ANN in Spanish	10,660
Managua PRELA in Spanish	5,890
SPAIN	
Madrid EFE in Spanish	4,660
Madrid PRELA in Spanish	420
USSR	
Moscow TASS in Spanish	780
VENEZUELA	
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	6,370
TOTAL FOR MAY 1985	<hr/> 66,150