

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

6 May 1985
MPA-5018

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

I. GENERAL

The bureau continued its ROSET cruising efforts against television targets outside its traditional coverage area. The effort against Peruvian, Chilean, and Argentine television transmissions via satellite is now completed, and the effort against Brazilian television nearly complete. We have found that for the time being, at least, Brazilian channels on the 21.5W INTELSAT are in parallel on the recently launched 65.0W BRASILSAT.

Responding to a special request from MOD, we conducted a cruising spotcheck survey of West European television monitorable in Panama. The two-week check confirmed our observations of January, and no new sources of West European television were identified.

A gear-box problem with the operational ROSET was quickly fixed by two UAI contractors — who flew in from Texas on the 24th — and the bureau's ROSET engineer. A loose pin in the azimuth brake caused the brake to fail, and this in turn loosened an opposite gear-box. During the time the ROSET was immobile, we were able to lock it on the 34.5W INTELSAT, the major source of our press agency coverage. For a few days we lost coverage of Mexican, Venezuelan, and Colombian television.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Bureau operations continued at a hectic pace in April. In El Salvador, elections to the legislative assembly were held on 31 March. After a lengthy vote count process, complete with the usual charges of fraud and improper vote count procedures, the ruling Christian Democratic Party emerged with a parliamentary majority. Jose Napoleon Duarte's administration and the rebel FMLN-FDR forces continued their lengthy, unsuccessful haggling over a date and venue for a third round of the peace talks initiated last ~~December~~.

October.

-2-

Colombia's President Belisario Betancur went on a whirlwind ten-day tour to discuss the Central America situation and the Contadora Group's efforts, and other economic and political topics of international interest. Betancur's tour included a trip to the United States that afforded him the opportunity to receive a firsthand account of President Reagan's Holy Week peace proposal for Nicaragua. In turn, the Colombian president discussed the Reagan initiative with Central American leaders during subsequent stops on his tour, highlighting what otherwise would have been a routine coverage situation.

The Sandinist leadership in Nicaragua categorically rejected President Reagan's peace proposal, reaffirmed their refusal to negotiate with the contras, and insisted on direct negotiations with the United States. Daniel Ortega apparently coordinated the official Nicaraguan response with the Cubans during an unannounced and little publicized trip to Havana and meeting with Fidel Castro on Easter Sunday. The official Nicaraguan media provided extensive criticism of the Reagan proposal, as well as of the President's bid for \$14 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. Following the U.S. House of Representatives' rejection of the aid package for the contras, President Daniel Ortega left on a tour of East Bloc countries to try to drum up \$200 million in much-needed economic assistance.

Normally tense relations between Nicaragua and Honduras were exacerbated even more in early April when a squad of Nicaraguan soldiers in seven military vehicles unwittingly entered Honduran territory and were taken prisoner. Following a flurry of clarifications, communiques, and coordination, the vehicles and soldiers were returned to Nicaragua.

In Honduras, the political turmoil continued unabated with President Roberto Suazo Cordova under steady fire from dissident factions of his own Liberal party, the political opposition, and from labor and peasant sectors. Amid charges, rebuttals, countercharges, and political debates, the bureau's production from Honduran sources was more than twice its average monthly figure.

In Guatemala, rumors of a coup d'etat prompted by widespread protests over new taxes forced Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores to cancel a scheduled trip abroad in mid-month. Following several days of close monitoring of this critical situation Mejia Victores repealed the announced tax reform law, restoring peace to the nation.

In Cuba, Fidel Castro kept up his recent steady pace of lengthy talks with the media, granting an interview to a group of Ecuadorean journalists following a state visit by Ecuadorean President Leon Ferbres Cordero. Earlier in April, the bureau processed a 25,000-word PRENSA LATINA report on "excerpts" of an interview granted by President Castro to the Mexico City newspaper EXCELSIOR.

-3-

After unsuccessfully trying to operate the NEFAX facsimile transmitter on our four-wire dedicated remote circuit, NEFAX units were installed at the bureau and at our Honduras remote site using a regular two-wire commercial telephone line. Following two weeks of trial transmissions and tests, feed procedures were set up and NEFAX transmission of selected Honduran newspaper items began on 15 April. Print quality is generally fair to good. Increased accuracy, improved selection of excerpts and a wider selection of material are some of the benefits that offset the higher cost of facsimile transmission. In the future we plan to use similar NEFAX press feeds from our other Central American remote sites. If we could use our dedicated remote lines in place of the commercial telephone lines for NEFAX transmissions the monetary savings would be significant.

At the suggestion of Key West Bureau, a five-year-old phone patch plan was dusted off and updated to allow Panama to assist Key West with processing of lengthy Cuban material not aired over Havana International Service. A successful test of the phone patch capability was made on 10 April.

B. Communications

In April the bureau's primary AUTODIN communications experienced outages totaling over 160 hours. On 24 April an outage began and lasted until 3 May. The ten-day outage, the longest in the history of the bureau, was eventually restored after the Panama Automated Relay flew a specialist in from the United States to work on the Army communications computer. During the outage, the bureau made heavy use of the commercial Telex for its priority altroute and formalized procedures to use the Fort Clayton Telecommunications Center as an altroute for the bureau's incoming and outgoing routine traffic.

Following coordination with FBIS headquarters, the bureau promulgated six Address-Indicating Group packages for consumers interested in materials on selected topics in the Latin American coverage area. The bureau will begin using the six AIG packages on 3 June. Key West and Paraguay Bureaus and FBIS headquarters are authorized users for five of the six packages and all FBIS bureaus and FBIS headquarters may use the sixth AIG package for materials on Cuba.

C. Lateral Services

A reverse phone patch from the bureau to our independent contractor in Tegucigalpa was used to provide the American Embassy in Honduras with a recording of a 51-minute radio interview that Honduran Armed Forces Commander in Chief, General Walter Lopez Reyes, granted a Radio America newsman on 15 April.

-4-

D. Technical

Panama Bureau's automatic switching system from commercial power to the emergency generator was repaired by Army Engineers. The bureau was without an automatic system for two days.

The bureau procured locally:

1. One Sony Portable Radio Recorder (Battery and A/C operated) Model WA-800, Serial No. 43043. Unit Price \$165.00.
2. One Executive Desk. Unit Price \$350.00 (On loan to FBIS Tegucigalpa)
3. One Credenza, Model La Constancia. Unit Price: \$400.00 (On loan to FBIS Tegucigalpa)
4. One Executive Desk (In Rosewood), Model Expo Unit Price: \$1,187.00.
5. One Executive Chair (Rust), Model 010. Unit Price: \$527.00.
6. Two Visitor Chairs (Rust Upholstered) Model 1103. Unit Price: \$736.00.
7. Two Visitor Chairs (Rust Upholstered) Model 1104. Unit Price: \$656.00.
8. One Round Table (Wood). Unit Price: \$795.00.
9. One Executive Credenza, Model Expo (In Rosewood). Unit Price: \$998.00.
10. One Hitachi VCR Model #VT-39EM multisystem video cassette recorder Serial No. 50321796. Unit Price: \$633.30.

The following property was transferred, with Headquarters' concurrence, to FBIS Swaziland:

Two Extel Printers RO, Model AFR-11, Serial No. 115537 and 36247.

The following accountable property was received:

Two Keyboard, Keytronic, Model DB5150, Serial No. 605179 and 605180 (f/u/w IBM PC) Unit Price: \$269.00 each — Total Price: \$538.00.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

STAT [redacted] our new radio technician (boardman),
entered on duty 29 April.

Federal Service Emblems were passed out to six local employees
STAT at a ceremony in the bureau chief's office on 29 April. Those receiving
STAT them were [redacted] (both 25 years of
STAT service); [redacted] (both 20 years); and
[redacted] (both 10 years).

STAT Senior editor [redacted] departed Panama on 26 April on
emergency travel in connection with the death of her father in Oregon.

IV. VISITS

STAT Deputy Chief [redacted] met on 9 April with Lieutenant Colonel
Ken Lamb, SOUTHCOM Treaty Affairs, to discuss specific elements of the
Bureau's physical security requirements. On 12 April, he attended a
reception in a downtown hotel for Mr. Michael Nelson, deputy managing
director and general manager of Reuters, and Mr. Peter Holland, manager of
Reuters Overseas. Besides talking with the senior Reuter managers, the
deputy chief had the opportunity to meet and chat with Mr. Michael Blair,
Reuter regional manager.

The bureau chief attended the annual Bureau Chiefs Conference in
Washington, 15-24 April.

STAT Bangkok Bureau Chief [redacted] Paraguay Bureau Chief [redacted]
STAT [redacted] and Key West Bureau Chief [redacted] arrived in Panama on
29 April before returning to their bureaus after the conference. The
STAT major purpose of the brief visits was an orientation on ROSET. However,
[redacted] took the opportunity to work out several regional
coordination problems.

STAT Regional Engineer [redacted] arrived on 30 April for one of his
periodic inspections of the bureau physical plant. He departed on
4 May.

Two UAI engineers were at the bureau 24-26 April to repair a brake
and gear-box problem in the operational ROSET.

STAT [redacted]
Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachment:
Production Report

Panama Bureau Production Report for April 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	533480
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	18100
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1353

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	10980.00 min.	43380.00 min.	208.00 issues

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

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish		2630	
----------------------------------	--	------	--

CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	9270		
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	30090		
Clandestine Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua	10690		

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	4750		
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	8230		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	4150		
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	3670		
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish			4330
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			5230

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	5800		
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	6730		

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			2000
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1050
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			5840
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			340
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			2070
San Jose Nicaragua HOY in Spanish			1600
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			0
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	1770		
Havana International Service in Spanish	34720		
Havana PRELA in English		42220	
Havana PRELA in Spanish		27000	
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	910		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	6330		
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	2060		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	3640		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	1240		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	16350		
San Salvador SALPRES in Spanish		1000	
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			230
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			3160
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			3310

- 3 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			3900
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		1860	
Paris AFP in Spanish		18710	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		4370	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	6570		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	6510		
Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish	330		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	5310		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	6360		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			730
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1150
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	16550		
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	17610		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	9700		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	1760		

- 4 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	13000		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			1320
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			13240
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			1930
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			1400
MEXICO			
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3530		
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	4720		
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			3850
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			2370
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			390
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			0
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			280
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			940
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	8180		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	9430		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	1800		
Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish	20990		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	12520		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	3710		
Managua ANN in Spanish		10540	
Managua ANN in English		680	

- 5 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua PRELA in Spanish		2860	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			3400
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			1810
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			6790
PANAMA			
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	1240		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	4210		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	2140		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		12140	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			1120
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			0
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			2070
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			410
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			2030
Panama City LA GACETA FINANCIERA in Spanish			0
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			2220
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			40
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			650
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			1980
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			180
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			840
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		14250	

- 6 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Madrid PRELA in Spanish		240	
USSR Moscow TASS in Spanish		200	
VENEZUELA Caracas Television Service in Spanish	2690		
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			1320
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			0

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR APRIL 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

COLOMBIA	
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	3,670
CUBA	
Havana PRELA in Spanish	26,750
EL SALVADOR	
San Salvador SALPRESS in Spanish	1,000
MEXICO	
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3,400
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	4,720
NICARAGUA	
Managua ANN in English	680
Managua ANN in Spanish	9,940
Managua PRELA in Spanish	3,790
SPAIN	
Madrid EFE in Spanish	2,330
Madrid PRELA in Spanish	460
USSR	
Moscow TASS in Spanish	200
VENEZUELA	
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	2,280
<hr/>	
TOTAL FOR APRIL 1985	59,220