

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU



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MFL-6018
8 Aug 1986

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--July 1986

I. GENERAL

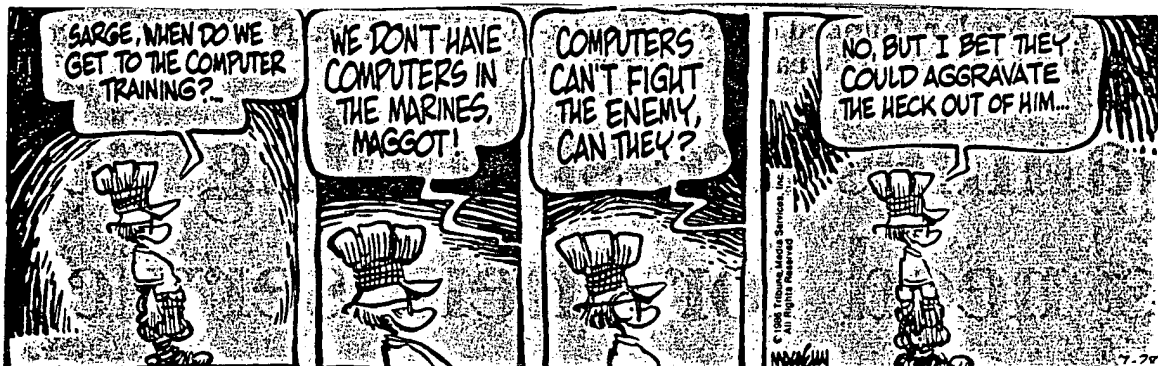
With a little bit of luck, we hope to move into our new housing around Labor Day. Masons were busy putting on the exterior stucco as carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and painters scurried about the interior rooms trying to finish up as soon as possible. We also took on a more finished look when the asphalt cul-de-sac and driveways were laid toward the end of the month.

Per instructions from Chief/Operations Group, the bureau formally requested permission from our Naval Air Station hosts to turn our experimental antenna on Boca Chica into a remote monitoring site which we trust will give us better reception of Hispaniola. We plan to contract the work out to Dynalectron, which we have asked to give us cost estimates for a completed turn-key operation.

Meanwhile, we used our existing limited antennas at the bureau during the latter part of the month to record and phonepatch to Production Group various low-powered and poorly received Haitian newscasts. Unfortunately, reception was generally poor, announcers read their scripts in Creole as often as in French, and the news tended to be more world events rather than local action. We hope to improve on this record when the seasonal atmospheric changes in October and our new antenna hopefully give us better reception of these stations.

Modernization took a giant step forward this month when we got our BACH up and running. Thanks to the indefatigable efforts of monitor [redacted] who refused to knuckle under to our "Key Lime" machines, and [redacted] the CRW magician who visited the bureau to install new software and later spent lots of time and effort fighting and finally beating a most annoying "Index" problem, we officially began using BACH on 29 July.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Continuing the pace set in June, Cuban President Fidel Castro pursued his propaganda campaign outside of Cuba by granting more interviews to the foreign media (not carried by domestic transmitters). At home, he continued to be the center of attention, criticizing sloppy work, lack of discipline, laziness, waste of resources, inefficiency, poor management, and absenteeism to scorn guilty workers--including party cadres--for irresponsible attitudes contrary to the revolutionary principles of the people's paradise.

Most unusual in Cuban news reporting was the TV coverage of the 17-19 July CP plenum deliberations, held at Havana's Palace of the Revolution. Most of the edited footage focused on Castro again complaining about the country's economic setbacks and criticizing all those less-than-noble workers guilty of work styles considered counterrevolutionary.

In the Caribbean, Jamaica's Prime Minister Seaga has some new worries following the major defeat suffered by his party in the municipal elections on 29 July. Adding to his concern is the troubling knowledge that sooner rather than later he will have to face Michael Manley in general elections he will probably lose, according to opinion polls.

In the Dominican Republic, there was quite a bit of anxiety among Reformist Party faithfuls over the health problems of President-elect Balaguer, who spent considerable time in the U.S. during the month nursing his various ailments.

South of the border, counterattacks to U.S. criticism of Mexican government corruption in dealing with the drug problem has continued to dominate the media. At the same time, the foreign debt debate has slowly disappeared from our main source of Mexican news--NOTIMEX--ever since agreements with creditor banks and the IMF were signed in Washington and New York. No one seems to be using the word moratorium anymore.

B. Communications

In one of the worst commo outages in memory down here, all of Key West was cut off from the rest of the world (so what else is new) on the last day of the month when a construction crew sliced Ma Bell's underground cable at Mile Marker 74 near Marathon. As a result, we lost our Autodin and backup telex circuit as well as all long-distance telephone service for nearly 12 hours after the cable was cut in the middle of the morning. The bureau chief had his first opportunity to ask a favor of the COMUSFORCARIB J-6 staff who found a secure phone for him to use to let the Wire know we were dead in the water. See attached Miami HERALD article for further details.

Earlier, our full-duplex line to the Navy Communications Unit on Boca Chica, where our copy is entered into Autodin, was converted from high- to low-level in compliance with Southern Bell's ongoing effort to upgrade its Key West telephone and digital communications network.

C. Technical

Technician [] put his many years of experience to work when he came up with a variety of ideas that were incorporated into the bureau's response to an overseas technical support study requested by Chief/Engineering Support Group.

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D. Cruising

An amplifier for the bureau's first and only FM antenna arrived during the month. This antenna should allow us to hear FM broadcasts from Pinar del Rio in western Cuba for the first time. In addition, we should get better reception of broadcasts from existing FM transmitters in the Havana area. We are also hoping to pick up several other reported but previously unheard FM stations from central Cuba when we eventually get our new gear mounted above the Yagi TV antennas on our 80 foot metal tower.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

The bureau worked out an arrangement with Admin so that monitorial candidates who will be visiting Key West for testing will not have to pay out of pocket for their airline tickets and motel costs. The bureau had experienced some justifiable hesitation on the part of several candidates who were fresh out of school and either did not have credit cards or just did not have the up-front money to pay for the trip before being reimbursed. We hope this arrangement, which ensures that tickets will be waiting for pick-up at the airline counter on day of departure, will help ease any potential cash-flow problems. We have three Puerto Rican candidates scheduled to visit in late August. We also have several promising candidates scared up by the chairman of the Spanish department of [] alma mater near Chicago.

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B. Building and Grounds

A new contractor, hired after the loss at sea of our former diesel specialist, cleaned the auxiliary generator of rust and corrosion and then gave the entire works a fresh painting.

IV. VISITORS

1. Naval Capt Grandick, Reserve COMUSFORCARIB J-2, 9 July.
2. Joe Kidd, McLean-based Operations & Maintenance Manager of Dynalectron Corporation, 14 July.
3. Michele Magnin, CRW contractor, 18-21 July.
4. Major Kurt Davidson, head of COMUSFORCARIB's Joint Intelligence Center, and four junior officers, 22 July.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The bureau chief came in a distant last in the recent Key West Ernest Hemingway Look-Alike Contest:

Just like Papa

Look-alike contest climaxes Hemingway fest

KEY WEST — (AP) — More than 10,000 visitors attended the weeklong Hemingway Days Festival, which ended Sunday with the naming of a Dade City resident as the winner of the Papa Hemingway Look-Alike Contest.

Fred Johnson beat out 41 other contestants when he was selected as the one who looks most like the bearded, gray-haired author, who would have celebrated his 87th birthday Monday. Ernest Hemingway committed suicide in 1961.

In the short-story competition, Jonathan Haws of Miami emerged from a field of 457 contestants to place first with his manuscript entitled, *Saving the World*. Judges for the contest included Tom Jenks, who edited Hemingway's manuscript *The Garden of Eden*, recently published as a book.

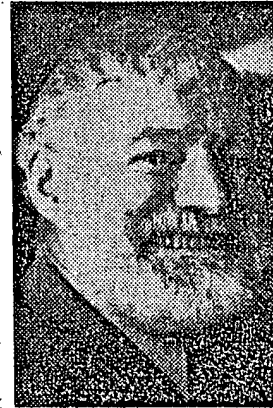
The Hemingway Billfish Tournament was won by Doug Page of Wauchula, who caught a 134-pound blue marlin.

The event, which began July 14, was Key West's sixth annual Hemingway Days Festival.

One of the most popular and influential writers of this century, Hemingway won the Nobel prize for literature in 1954, one year after receiving the



Johnson



Hemingway

Pulitzer Prize for his novel *The Old Man and the Sea*.

A one-time resident of Key West, Hemingway wrote *To Have and Have Not*, *Snows of Kilimanjaro* and *Green Hills of Africa* here. His home is now open to visitors, who are offered daily tours of the house, grounds and his studio.



Bureau Chief



Chief, Key West Bureau

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Attachment:

Production Report
Commo Outage

cc: C/Panama, C/Paraguay Bureaus

Friday, August 1, 1986

The Miami Herald

Section C

Phone cable mishap cuts off Lower Keys

By ROSEMARY HAROLD

Herald Staff Writer

Key West, celebrated for its isolation from the mainland, was truly cut off Thursday when a sliced underground cable at mile marker 74 wiped out long-distance telephone service in the Lower Keys for more than nine hours.

"Welcome to the Keys," John Wolfe said good-naturedly. "It's not right or wrong — but it is different."

Wolfe, who manages the Raymond-James and Associates stock brokerage in Key West, said that without the ability to place orders or receive stock quotations, his staff resorted to monitoring hourly stock reports on the radio.

"It was like we walked into a closet and turned the light off," Wolfe said.

A construction crew digging in Lower Matecumbe Beach cut the cable about 10 a.m., said Stephanie Huntsinger of Miami, a Southern Bell spokeswoman.

Local telephone service was not affected, Huntsinger said, but customers in the Lower Keys could not communicate by phone with anyone north of the Long Key Bridge. Service was restored gradually beginning at about 7:30 p.m.

Southern Bell has 32,000 customers in Monroe County, but Huntsinger said officials could not determine how many people were greeted by a faster-than-normal busy signal or a recording saying, "We're sorry, all circuits are busy now."

"We assume that not all of those people were trying to place long-distance calls," she said.

The dead lines presented more than a simple inconvenience to Monroe County government workers, who depend on the telephone to communicate between three offices stretched throughout the islands. County officials in the main courthouse in Key West for the most part had no contact with subcourthouses in Marathon and Plantation Key.

"It's putting a real crimp in our work," said County Clerk Danny Kohlege, whose offices not only process all civil and criminal court paperwork and official county government documents but also field phone calls from Miami lawyers and others.

Both the phone lines and Kohlege's computer hook-ups to the smaller offices were down.

Courts Administrator Tom Long was not overly concerned about the Middle and Upper Keys courtrooms, because Circuit Judge David Kirwan was in Marathon and County Judge Alison DeFoor was in Plantation Key.

"As long as we have a judge available at each phone, it shouldn't be too much of a problem. Of course, I don't know if somebody up there is having a problem, because they can't reach me," Long said.

"It is noticeably quieter today, and I was wondering why. That explains it," he said.

A repair crew headed for the trouble spot shortly after 1 p.m., Southern Bell spokesman Bob Self said.

"It took us this long to figure

out where it was. It could have been anywhere along a 40-mile stretch," Self said.

Southern Bell would not release the name of the construction company whose workers cut the cable. Construction crews are supposed to follow certain procedures before digging near underground cables, and Huntsinger said officials are still investigating whether those rules were followed Thursday.

Whoever cut the cable took a six-inch chunk out of the new, high-tech fiber-optics line, which Southern Bell installed less than a year ago to replace old and often cranky phone lines. "From what I understand, it was obvious to be seen," Self said. "Anyone doing work in the area would have been

given a guide to where the lines were located."

Sheriff William Freeman's switchboard was deluged with calls to the emergency 911 number until news of the phone line loss was broadcast over local radio stations Thursday morning.

"It's an inconvenience more than anything, a frustration," Col. Larry Meggs said. "We have no contact with the substations except by radio."

"It gave me a few problems personally, but it was probably worse for our dispatchers," Freeman said. "When you've got so much work to do and they tell you the phones are out, you just put aside the calls you were going to make and pick up another project instead."

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JULY 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	146,630
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH :	26,980
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH :	460

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	BROADCAST	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK	2,575	14,700	21
	MIN	MIN	ISSUES

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

BAHAMAS

Nassau Domestic Service in English	<u>820</u>		
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Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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BARBADOS

Bridgetown CANA in English		<u>61,300</u>	
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Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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BELIZE

Belize City Domestic Service in English	<u>120</u>		
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Belize Times in English			<u>420</u>
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CUBA

Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish	<u>4,550</u>		
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Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish	<u>7,140</u>		
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Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u>740</u>		
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Havana Radio Periodico Del Aire in Spanish	<u>940</u>		
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KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JULY 1986

CUBA

Havana Domestic Service 4,720
in Spanish

Havana Tele-Rebelde Network 9,210
in Spanish

Havana Television Cubana Network -0-
in Spanish

Havana Television Service 35,670
in Spanish

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena -0-
in Spanish

Santo Domingo Radio Antillas Network 900
in Spanish

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO -0-
in Spanish

JAMAICA

Kingston Domestic Service -0-
in English

Kingston DAILY GLEANER -0-
in English

Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER -0-
in English

MEXICO

Mexico City NOTIMEX 17,160
in Spanish

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Bonaire Trans World Radio 970
in English

THE NETHERLANDS

Hilversum International 100
in English

SURINAME

Paramaribo International Service 1,870
in English

OTHER SOURCES:

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