

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

6 May 1986
MPA-6013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- April 1986

I. GENERAL

Bureau Chief [redacted] accepted a rotational assignment in headquarters and departed Panama on 2 April. The [redacted] family will remain in Panama until the end of May so their childrens' education will not be interrupted. In shades of a Bolivian Government changeover, Panama Bureau began a period that will see five different bureau chiefs or acting chiefs in as many months. [redacted] assumed duties as acting bureau chief on 2 April.

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Panama Bureau's three new 9.2-meter limited-motion ROSET antennas became fully operational on 1 April. With their activation the bureau began uninterrupted monitoring of nine press agency circuits from the 34.5W INTELSAT, while maintaining coverage of Venezuelan, Colombian, and Mexican television. The new satellite antennas are also being used in a combined cruising and sampling survey of satellite transmissions we foresee laying on coverage.

In preparing for Paraguay Bureau's associate ROSET to go operational Panama Bureau reviewed the signals transmitted by the BRASILSAT SBTS A1 at 65W and BRASILSAT SBTS A2 at 70W. Cruising information on the television signals carried on the 65W BRASILSAT were reported. No press agency circuits were monitored on either satellite; in fact only telemetry signals have been observed thus far on the 70W BASILSAT.

Panama Bureau's participation in the INTERNET project made substantial progress in April. Two contractors from Satellite Transmission Systems, Inc. visited the bureau to identify the site for the 13-meter INTERNET antenna. [redacted]

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Four

INTERCOMSA officials and two officials for the Panamanina government visited the bureau for a general briefing and review of INTERNET plans.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The background of tension continued in Central America with several key events in April. In Honduras, President Jose Azcona delivered an address to the nation via a national network on 4 April in which he defended the request by his government for U.S. aid to repulse a Sandinist People's Army border incursion. Azcona's address followed the 24 March Honduran confirmation of a border incursion by Nicaragua which had led to tense relations between the two countries. Azcona justified the Honduran request by simply listing alleged Nicaraguan border violations to date.

On 5 April, attention turned to Panama where a meeting of Central American foreign ministers and their counterparts from the Contadora and Support Groups began. Although the meeting was billed by some as one of the last chances for Contadora to succeed in achieving peace in Central America, the meeting adjourned on 7 April (one day later than planned) without a complete consensus. In response to a request from the Wire Service, Panama Bureau remained open until the early morning hours of 7 April to provide details of the final day's evening session. A communique issued at the conclusion of the 3-day session invited the Central American countries to a 6 June meeting to sign the final document.

On 12 April, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, whose country had failed to provide the consensus needed at the Panama meeting, clarified his country's position. In a live speech carried by Managua Domestic Service, Ortega said that "Nicaragua agrees to sign this document on 6 June, as long as the U.S. aggression against Nicaragua has completely ended by that date and as long as an agreement is reached on the points pending in the modified document."

In response to an alert from Paraguay Bureau, the bureau began monitoring Lima Television Peruana via ROSET on 10 April for coverage of a visit to Uruguay by Peruvian President Alan Garcia. In addition to a VSL, the bureau filed a joint Uruguayan-Peruvian communique and the text of a 40-minute speech by President Garcia on 11 April at the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) in Montevideo.

Following the U.S. attack against Libya in the early morning hours of 15 April, the bureau filed numerous reports at immediate precedence on regional reaction to the U.S. air strike. The responses from the Cuban and Nicaraguan Governments were of particular interest. Cuba, in a government statement broadcast over Havana International Service, termed the strike a "pirate-like action," while Nicaragua expressed "its most vigorous condemnation of this new aggression, which endangers world peace" in a Foreign Ministry communique broadcast over Managua International Service.

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In Panama, the completion of the 15th training seminar for lieutenants provided the setting for an awkwardly staged late night telecast from the Presidential Palace on 24 April. Lieutenant Nino Baprio read a declaration alleging that certain "well-known political groups" were attempting to increase their "treacherous attacks" and anti-Panamanian campaigns. Following the reading of the declaration, President Eric Delvalle, Defense Forces Chief General Manuel Noriega, and Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia all made brief statements. Delvalle alluded to a "campaign of slander, half-truths, and falsehoods spread by a minority of evil Panamanians." The declaration and the accompanying statements appear to have been in response to comments by U.S. Administration and congressional officials on the possible role of Panama in drug trafficking and money laundering. In the aftermath of the 24 April broadcast, the bureau filed numerous reports from opposition leaders and parties. Panama's Christian Democratic Party President Ricardo Arias Calderon termed the event a "regrettable show" to which "no serious government" would be a part.

B. Communications

The Army communications team lead by Mr. Nelson Smith departed Panama 15 April. The Smith team was unable to activate the bureau's Mode I Mux circuit and it is now unlikely that they will ever be able to do so. The Army communications people continued to complain that the bureau equipment was not compatible with the Army equipment. FBIS Headquarters advises us, however, that the two sets of equipment are compatible with software changes in the Army equipment. The Army will not acknowledge or agree to such changes to accommodate our equipment.

On 14 April, USAISC Panama commander Colonel Bob Abney and Dick Stumvoll, USAISC Plans and Projects, visited to discuss bureau communications needs. The Panama Automated Relay is expected to remain operational until this fall and a "tone pack" alternative was seen as the most probable fall-back option for the bureau's communications when PAR closes.

C. Technical

During the month, the following accountable property was received:

Three Leader Audio Generators, Model LAG-120B, Serial Nos. 510349, 5080223, and 5120357. Unit Price: \$295.00 each.

Four NEFAX Bit I/II Facsimile Tranceivers, Serial Nos. 13746, 12752, 13766, and 13758. Unit Price: \$4,085.00 each.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Teletypist was married to in Panama City on 10 April.

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Radio technician [redacted] was married to [redacted] in Panama City on 19 April.

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B. Building and Grounds

Local contractor Cedeno and Choy completed construction of a ROSET monitorial booth with furniture, a mail desk, and miscellaneous furniture for the shop area during the month. Cedeno and Choy removed the double fence along the east side of the operations building.

IV. VISITS

New U. S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur H. Davis and Deputy Chief of Mission William T. Pryce visited the bureau on 3 April for a briefing and tour.

On 7 April, the acting chief and [redacted] attended a reception at the Marriott Hotel hosted by INTERNET contractor INTERCOMSA in honor of the 16th meeting of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT).

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USAISC Commander Colonel Robert O. Abney and Richard O. Stumvoll, USAIC Plans and Projects Branch chief, visited the bureau on 14 April for a tour and discussion of the bureau's communications needs.

On 23 April, four INTERCOMSA officials and two officials from the Panamanian Ministry of Government and Justice visited the bureau for a briefing on FBIS's mission worldwide and the bureau's work in particular: From INTERCOMSA -- Jose Guanti,; Karlos Brown, technical supervisor; Rodrigo McCollins, Special Services; and Marcel D. Carfantan, Panama City technical manager. From the Panamanian Ministry of Government and Justice -- Aurelion Ali Bonilla, national director of Social Communications Media, and Mario Bernudez, assistant to the telecommunications advisor.

Ms. Nan Mattingly from the Department of State in Washington, D.C. visited the bureau from 26 April to 2 May for a familiarization with FBIS field bureau work.

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[redacted]

Acting Chief, Panama Bureau
FBIS

Attachment
Production Report

Panama Bureau Production Report for April 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	582070
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	20100
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1504

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	10970.00 min.	90870.00 min.	212.00 issues

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

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish		3390	
Buenos Aires REUTER in English		260	

CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	0		
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	18900		

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	0		
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	0		
Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish	3330		
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	5240		
Bogota REUTER in Spanish		300	
Bogota REUTER in English		1170	
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish			1810
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			13920

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	7330		
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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	9860		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			4170
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			3170
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			3760
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			220
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			0
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			1970
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	480		
Havana International Service in Spanish	54770		
Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	8910		
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		10800	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		13550	
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	2410		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	3370		
Quito REUTER in Spanish		490	
Quito REUTER in English		330	
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	2550		
San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish	250		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	520		
San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish	2600		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	2040		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	6000		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	3410		
San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish	2270		
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			890
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			1810
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			290
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			840
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		380	
Paris AFP in Spanish		15570	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		6980	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	5610		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	4310		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	200		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	4970		
Guatemala City TELEONCE Television in Spanish	5900		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			4050
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			3290

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	22780		
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	2670		
Tegucigalpa La Voz Evangelica de Honduras in Spanish	260		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	710		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	2510		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	12030		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			120
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			10800
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			3590
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			2470
MEXICO			
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3090		
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	7810		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		770	
Mexico City REUTER in English		1610	
Mexico City REUTER in Spanish		240	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			6580
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			480
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			2120
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			9330
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			400
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			8530

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	4930		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	22470		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	870		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	27770		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	4410		
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		370	
Managua ANN in Spanish		22500	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		6550	
Managua SALPRESS-NOTISAL in Spanish		260	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			12190
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			6990
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			1650
PANAMA			
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	6210		
Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish	170		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	3200		
Panama City PANAVISION Television in Spanish	980		
Panama City Television Service in Spanish	880		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	3910		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		31360	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			2620
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			3460
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			2910
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			6190
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			10720
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			1540
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			2580
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			2320
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			2470
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			1310
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
PERU			
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	5710		
Lima REUTER in English			0
Lima REUTER in Spanish			300
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish			21780
USSR			
Moscow TASS in Spanish			0
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	9410		
Caracas REUTER in English			1580
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			1610
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			350

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR APRIL 1986 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in English	260
Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish	230

COLOMBIA

Bogota Television Service in Spanish	5,240
Bogota REUTER in English	1,170
Bogota REUTER in Spanish	300

CUBA

Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	13,550
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ECUADOR

Quito REUTER in English	330
Quito REUTER in Spanish	490

MEXICO

Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3,090
Mexico CityXHDF Television Network in Spanish	7,810
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	770
Mexico City REUTER in English	1,610
Mexico City REUTER in Spanish	240

NICARAGUA

Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish	370
Managua ANN in Spanish	22,500
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	6,550
Managua SALPRESS-NOTISAL in Spanish	260

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PERU	
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	5,710
Lima REUTER in Spanish	300
SPAIN	
Madrid EFE in Spanish	3,980
VENEZUELA	
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	9,410
Caracas REUTER in English	1,580
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TOTAL FOR APRIL 1986	85,750