

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
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5 March 1986
MPA-6008

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

I. GENERAL

Significant progress has been made on the three new ROSET's. Three contractors from Engineering and Technical Services, Inc. (a sub-contractor for Universal Antennas, Inc.) arrived at the bureau late in the month and have moved quickly with the construction of the antenna bases and the assembling of the reflectors. An operational date of late March appears yet to be a realistic estimate. A contractor from Electrospace Systemes, Inc. also arrived in late February to begin the installation of modification kits for the closed loop cooling of drive motors for the existing two ROSET's. This was a project begun in November but subsequently delayed due to a mismatch of parts.

During February the bureau began experimenting with the wire-filing to Headquarters, through a leased reperforator, of TASS Romanized Russian (Managua TASS in Russian to TASS Moscow) monitored from satellite. The experiment is a pilot project for future INTERNET operations.

The first major efforts toward realization of an INTERNET site in Panama began in February with the arrival of staff engineers [redacted] [redacted] who provided essential information to the bureau chief and others on the planned workings of the system. The bureau completed and forwarded to Headquarters (and to London Bureau, for its information) a concept paper and an activation schedule for INTERNET.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

The month of February began with the holding of the third Central American election in recent months, this time in Costa Rica. The bureau maintained an open speaker watch on Costa Rican radios throughout the evening of 2 February, and, shortly before midnight Costa Rica time, was able to report that Oscar Arias Sanchez, the candidate of the National Liberation Party, had won election as president.

On 4 February, the long-awaited Third Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba began in Havana. Throughout the 4-day congress, Panama and Key West Bureaus coordinated joint coverage plans. The bureaus used a tested but until then operationally untried phone patch feed from Florida to Panama to expedite processing of Fidel Castro's 6-hour-long main report at the opening of the congress as well as Castro's closing address on 7 February. Interestingly, neither of the speeches was broadcast live over the Havana International Service, which has usually carried events of this magnitude in the past. Panama Bureau provided to Key West, on a TDY basis, two Spanish monitors and a teletypist, and processing of congress materials was further speeded by Panama's week-long midnight shift laid on specifically for the congress. The bureau also processed speeches at the congress by Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega and the FMLN delegate Shafik Jorge Handal, among others. Key West and Panama Bureaus were jointly commended by the Chief, Operations Group, for the flexibility, initiative, and team effort involved in coverage of the Cuban Communist Party Congress.

In Haiti, the situation remained tense with reports of continuing demonstrations and violence. Rumors that President-for-Life Duvalier was considering leaving the country were given substance by Western news agency reports on 5 and 6 February that "Baby Doc" had requested asylum in several West European countries. Following the announcement by U.S. media in the early morning hours of 7 February that Duvalier had fled Haiti en route to France, the bureau filed numerous press agency reports on the composition of the new Haitian government and on the situation in the country.

Nicaragua and Costa Rica reestablished full diplomatic relations on 13 February following an exchange of letters between the presidents of the two countries. Cost Rica had charged Nicaragua with responsibility for the deaths of two Costa Rican Civil Guardsmen in last May's "Las Crucitas incident," and had conditioned the reestablishment of relations on the receipt of an apology from Managua for the deaths. Reports on the renewal of relations were filed from both Managua and San Jose radios.

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Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi spoke to the nation on 27 February to update the Venezuelan people on the current oil and economic situations, and to review terms of Venezuela's debt refinancing plan. The speech was carried live on Venezuelan radio and television and texted for wire use from Caracas television monitored via ROSET.

On 21 February, a 2 and 1/2-hour program on the launch of a French Ariane rocket was videorecorded off the 24.5 West Intelsat and pouched to headquarters. Coverage alternated between Toulouse, France, and Kourou, French Guiana, and included a detailed explanation of the French remote sensing satellite "SPOT" as well as shots of the control rooms at the two locations and the actual launch.

On 23 February, 15 items from the bureau's Spanish-language press agency sources were filed at immediate precedence on the stepping down of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. Coordination with headquarters confirmed the value of our reports and 7 of the 15 items were used by the wire service.

B. Lateral Services

In response to an immediate request from the American Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, the bureau on 14 February filed three Nicaraguan reports on Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo's remarks in Washington which were critical of U. S. policy toward Nicaragua.

On 2 February the bureau filed an item from the Salvadoran media which had implied the Salvadoran Government was to begin exercising prior censorship of radio and television broadcasts. In an unusual request, the Public Affairs Officer at the American Embassy in San Salvador requested the bureau to file an explanatory note --provided by the embassy -- to the recipients of the 2 February item. The note stated that a high-level Salvadoran Government official, in a meeting with an embassy officer, affirmed that the government does not seek to exercise any form of prior review, control, or censorship of the Salvadoran media.

C. Technical

During the month, the following accountable property was received:

Price: Four Hybrid Termination Units received from British Telecom. Unit \$400.00

Typewriters, IBM Selectric III correcting typewriters 115V 60HZ with Selectric II ribbon mechanism Serial Nos: 6327477, 6327478, 6327505, 6327502, 6327519, and 6327521. Unit Price: \$877.00.

Office: The following was transferred to the Army Property Disposal

One Mustang Lawn Mower, Model 245. Unit Price \$237.00.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Staff editor [] was promoted to GS-12. STAT

Teletypist [] was promoted from FBN 3/2 to FBN 4/1 and chief technician [] received a PSI (from FBN 11/9 to FBN 11/10) during the month. STAT
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Spanish monitor [] received a cash award of \$1,000 for her sustained superior performance over the past several months. The award was presented at an appropriate ceremony in the bureau chief's office on 20 February. STAT

Administrative assistant [] began maternity leave on 26 February, after delivering a healthy young girl, [] the previous night. STAT
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B. Building and Grounds

The operations building carpeting project begun in January was finished by the end of February. A second lunch counter has been built in the dining room.

The acoustical walls for a new monitoring booth have been erected, and the cabinet and electronic work for it will begin in March. The booth is in the area vacated by the staff secretary, who has since moved to a cubical in the library. When completed, this will bring the total of monitoring booths to 18.

IV. VISITS

The bureau chief was in Headquarters for a brief TDY on 18 and 19 February.

[] of ESG arrived on 3 February for an INTERNET site survey and other engineering support activities. [] departed on the 7th and [] on the 13th. STAT
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Spanish monitors [] and teletypist [] provided TDY support to Key West Bureau during the Cuban Party Congress in early February. STAT
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Paraguay Bureau Deputy Chief [] and Paraguay Bureau staff technician [] visited Panama on 11 and 12 February for a ROSET orientation in anticipation of Paraguay's receiving a small ROSET. STAT
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AG analyst [redacted] in Panama on private travel, spent 24 February at the bureau for orientation.

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Contractors [redacted] (of Engineering and Technical Services, Inc.) and [redacted] (of Electrospac Systems, Inc.) arrived at the bureau late in the month.

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Chief, Panama Bureau

Attachment:
Production Report

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1986 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

COLOMBIA

Bogota Television Service in Spanish	4,650
Bogota REUTER in English	350
Bogota REUTER in Spanish	840

CUBA

Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	18,170
Havana EFE in Spanish	770

ECUADOR

Quito REUTER in Spanish	370
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EL SALVADOR

San Salvador NOTISAL in Spanish	330
San Salvador SALPRESS in Spanish	400

GERMANY

Hamburg DPA in Spanish	280
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MEXICO

Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	1,790
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	4,340
Mexico City Domestic Service in Spanish	5,550
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	180
Mexico City REUTER in English	4,170

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NICARAGUA	
Managua ANN in Spanish	6,590
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	3,910
PERU	
Lima REUTER in English	170
SPAIN	
Madrid EFE in Spanish	1,410
VENEZUELA	
Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish	5,460
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	3,880
Caracas REUTER in English	2,010

TOTAL FOR FEBRUARY 1986	65,620

Panama Bureau Production Report for February 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	515480
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	24670
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1192

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	10745.00 min.	42150.00 min.	212.00 issues

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

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish		360	
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CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	13310		
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	13300		

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	730		
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	1010		
Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish	1040		
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	4650		
Bogota REUTER in Spanish		840	
Bogota REUTER in English		350	
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish			5470
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			4530

COSTA RICA

San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish	2970		
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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	7690		
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	7540		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			540
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			700
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			1460
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			620
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			440
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			3160
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	650		
Havana International Service in Spanish	43460		
Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	36140		
Havana EFE in Spanish		770	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		5020	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		18170	
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	850		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	2310		
Quito REUTER in Spanish		370	
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	770		
San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish	1450		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	10360		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	1500		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	2290		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	5680		
San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish	3110		
San Salvador NOTISAL in Spanish		330	
San Salvador SALPRESS in Spanish		400	
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			0
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			3240
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			1680
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			1170
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		150	
Paris AFP in Spanish		20370	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		6990	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	720		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	8170		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	310		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	6880		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			1750

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1890
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	9620		
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	1510		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	2550		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	1150		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	9150		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			1450
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			4710
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			0
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			1090
MEXICO			
Mexico City Domestic Service in Spanish	5550		
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	1790		
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	3940		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		180	
Mexico City REUTER in English		4170	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			1050
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			1010
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			2250
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			4430
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			920
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			3480
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	2810		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Bluefields Radio Zinica in Spanish	930		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	33180		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	1650		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	29280		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	1730		
Managua ANN in Spanish		6590	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		3910	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			10220
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			5310
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			1600
PANAMA			
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	1300		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	1290		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	2380		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		16730	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			2840
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			0
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			780
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			1580
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			3010
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			16140
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			0
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			3790
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			3640

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			220
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			1840
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
PERU			
Lima REUTER in English		170	
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		29360	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish	5460		
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	530		
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	3880		
Caracas REUTER in English		2010	
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			3220
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			440