

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
PANAMA BUREAU  
DRAWER 927  
APO MIAMI 34004

6 February 1986  
MPA-6005

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

I. GENERAL

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After an abortive effort in December, cruisers [redacted] and [redacted] in late January completed a survey, from northern Costa Rica, of major Nicaraguan transmitters now being monitored from the remote site at the embassy in Managua. The cruisers were able to hear throughout the broadcast day, with reception ranging from excellent through good to fair, Managua Radio Sandino, Managua Domestic Service, Managua International Service, the audio portion of Managua Domestic Television, and Bluefields Radio Zinica. It appears that the northern Costa Rican site, in the city of Liberia, would provide an adequate fallback, through a remote operation, for monitoring Nicaraguan transmitters in the event of a break in diplomatic relations between Managua and Washington. A full cruising report is being pouched.

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Progress continues on the site preparation for the three additional ROSET's. The concrete work is finished -- pads, sidewalks, cable tray supports -- and much of the landscaping has been completed. The seavans with the antenna hardware are in Panama, awaiting customs clearance.

In what is hoped to be a major step in improving check turn-around time (and thus an assuaging of vendors), the bureau has arranged with the embassy to have non-payroll vouchering and disbursement handled by the embassy and RAMC/Mexico. The first packet of vouchers from the bureau went forward at the end of January. It is anticipated checks will be back to the bureau in ten days, as opposed to the thirty days and more when transactions were handled by pouching to Headquarters and checks were issued by the Washington Finance Center. Panama is the last overseas bureau to go to the embassy/RAMC arrangement.

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## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Editorial/Monitorial

The new year opened with a summit meeting between President Reagan and Mexican President De La Madrid in the border town of Mexicali, Mexico. The meeting of the two heads of state was covered through ROSET monitoring of Mexican television. The text of De La Madrid's welcoming remarks was provided from ROSET coverage and subsequent Mexican reaction to the summit was filed from Mexico City newspapers.

On 7 January, the Bureau's attention turned to Cuba as rumors began circulating that Fidel Castro was either seriously ill or dead. Available Cuban media was placed on open speaker watch and late that same evening the Bureau filed the official Cuban denials of problems with Castro's health from both Havana's International Service and the PRENSA LATINA press agency. Later it was alleged that the rumors about Castro's illness or death had begun in the Cuban emigre community in Miami.

In Central America, Guatemalan President-elect Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo was inaugurated on 14 January. The Bureau covered the nearly 7-hour long live relay of the inaugural ceremonies and texted both Cerezo's inaugural address and the speech by the outgoing head of state, General Guillermo Mejia Victores.

On 27 January, Honduras also inaugurated a new president, Jose Azcona Hoyo. The bureau covered a 4-hour live relay of the inaugural ceremonies in Tegucigalpa and texted Azcona's inaugural address.

Honduras remained in the spotlight late in the month with the on-again, off-again, on-again resignation of its armed forces chief, General Walter Lopez Reyes. Initial reports on 30 January reported Lopez Reyes was resigning because of a "lack of discipline" of his subordinates. On the very next day, after a talk with Honduran President Azcona and other high government officials, Lopez Reyes withdrew his resignation but then on 1 February announced his irrevocable resignation for "personal reasons." The Honduran media were making the most of the general's turnabouts with many claims of U. S. involvement in Lopez Reyes departure.

On 31 January, the Haitian population's dissatisfaction with its government boiled over with widespread public disorder reported. After some confusing message from the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, White House spokesman Larry Speaks erroneously reported that Haitian President-for-life "Baby Doc" Duvalier had fled the country. Although the only Haitian transmitter audible here, Cap Haitien Radio 4VEH, carried only international news in its brief newscasts in English and French, press agency reports monitored by the bureau clarified the situation and confirmed that Duvalier remained -- at least for now -- still in Haiti and very much in control.

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## B. Communications

In the continuing effort to upgrade bureau communications, bureau officers and the chief technician met on the 13th with a representative from Motorola and on the 14th with a U.S. Army civilian (the de facto Granger representative) to discuss a planned bureau-Ancon Hill-embassy microwave link. Motorola has given us its bid. We're awaiting more information on a Granger system, and we are pursuing other possibilities. On the 16th the bureau chief, deputy chief, staff engineer, and technician toured the Army communications site on Ancon Hill to confirm line of sight for a passive reflector or an active repeater.

There have been no significant developments on the Army MUX plan which would involve installation of Mode I equipment at the bureau.

## C. Technical

During the month, the following accountable property was received:

One Leader Audio Generator, Model LAG 120B, Serial No. 5080229.  
Unit Price: \$295.00

Thirty Talk-A-Phone, Model K-C-4930 Master Station for Intercom System. Unit Price: \$317.00

One Camera RCA Md1. TC1006 with 12.5mm auto iris with filter S/N 014561. Unit Price: \$1,962.00

Two Cameras RCA Md1. 1006UZO with 160mm zoom lens S/N 014499 & 014534. Unit Price: \$3,463.00

## III. ADMINISTRATION

### A. Personnel

Administrative Assistant  received a promotion from FBN-7/4 to FBN-8/3, effective 19 January 1986.

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### B. Building and Grounds

The Army's DEH connected the new air-conditioning system to the bureau's power grid. For two hours commercial power and the emergency generator were shut off.

The long-awaited shipment of carpet tile from Headquarters arrived. Carpeting has been completed in the press agency room, the teletype room, and the chief technician's office. Carpeting of the main hallways has begun. The complex of EXTEL machines has been moved into the press agency room with the completion of the carpeting of the room.

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IV. VISITS

[redacted] arrived on 7 January to begin his 12-week editorial training.

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[redacted] were in Costa Rica 21 - 28 January to conduct a cruising survey in the north of that country.

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Marv Francis, the chief of the Army's Program Development Group (PDG), visited the bureau on 16 January for a briefing and walkthrough.

[redacted]

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Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

**Attachment:**  
**Production Report**

## Panama Bureau Production Report for January 1986

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	503530
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	14760
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1217

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	10705.00 min.	42150.00 min.	212.00 issues

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

## ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish		3540	
Buenos Aires REUTER in English		1640	

## CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	6730		
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	17370		

## COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	1680		
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	6110		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	4530		
Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish	210		
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	5470		
Bogota REUTER in Spanish		250	
Cartagena REUTER in English		180	
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish			3390
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			7370

## COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	3570		
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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	4150		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			320
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1840
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			1490
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			2330
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			570
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			1950
<b>CUBA</b>			
Havana International Service in Quechua	2170		
Havana International Service in Spanish	46590		
Havana EFE in Spanish		360	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		9990	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		18570	
<b>ECUADOR</b>			
Quito Domestic Service in Spanish	1430		
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	1220		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	3900		
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	2850		
San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish	620		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	980		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	2130		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	1580		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	21060		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish	1520		
San Salvador NOTISAL in Spanish		560	
San Salvador SALPRESS in Spanish		370	
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			1080
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			3110
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			1710
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			1040
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
<b>FRANCE</b>			
Paris AFP in English		0	
Paris AFP in Spanish		23720	
<b>GERMANY</b>			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		8960	
<b>GUATEMALA</b>			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	2810		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	5260		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	100		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	9200		
Guatemala City SIGNO in Spanish		210	
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			930
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1540

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
<b>HONDURAS</b>			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	15450		
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	4120		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	4920		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	2220		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	15590		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			820
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			4550
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			0
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			1970
<b>MEXICO</b>			
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	2280		
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	5880		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		270	
Mexico City REUTER in English		1370	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			3820
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			610
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			380
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			2290
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			2210
Mexico City UNOMASUND in Spanish			1500
<b>NICARAGUA</b>			
Managua International Service in Spanish	560		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	18350		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	3400		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	24180		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	2980		
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		540	
Managua ANN in Spanish		11560	
Managua ANN in English		940	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		3500	
Managua TASS in Spanish		2330	
Managua BARRICADA INTERNACIONAL in English			3560
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			10830
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			3070
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			1660
<b>PANAMA</b>			
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	1810		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	9080		
Panama City PANAVISION Television in Spanish	710		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	2460		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		22340	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			2020
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			360
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			1370
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			1750

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			1470
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			9590
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			0
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			370
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			3520
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			550
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			1330
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		19390	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	9950		
Caracas REUTER in English		2480	
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			4260
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			750

## PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JANUARY 1986 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

<b>ARGENTINA</b>	
Buenos Aires REUTER in English	1,640
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	5,470
Bogota REUTER in English	250
Cartagena REUTER in English	180
<b>CUBA</b>	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	18,570
Havana EFE in Spanish	360
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>	
San Salvador NOTISAL in Spanish	560
San Salvador SALPRESS in Spanish	370
<b>GERMANY</b>	
Hamburg DPA in Spanish	390
<b>GUATEMALA</b>	
Guatemala City SIGNO in Spanish	210
<b>MEXICO</b>	
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	2,280
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	5,880
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	270
Mexico City REUTER in English	1,370

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<b>NICARAGUA</b>	
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish	540
Managua ANN in Spanish	11,560
Managua ANN in English	940
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	3,500
Managua TASS in Spanish	2,330
<b>SPAIN</b>	
Madrid EFE in Spanish	2,070
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	9,950
Caracas REUTER in English	2,480
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<b>TOTAL FOR JANUARY 1986</b>	<b>71,170</b>