

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)				
Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau				
FROM:	EXTENSION	NO.		
Chief, Operations Group		DATE June 1987		
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. Chief, Operations Group	22 July		B	<div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">STAT</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Ref II. A. 1: a commendation has been presented to Brent & included in his file.</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">B</div>
2.				
3. Chief, E&PS	7/28		PR	
4. D/Director, FBIS	7/28		C	
5. Director, FBIS	29 July		R	
6. PO-RA/E&PS	7/29		Om	
7. C/ESG	7/30		[Signature]	
8. C/FED	7/31		[Signature]	
9. C/ADD	8/3		[Signature]	
10. C/HED	8/4		[Signature]	
11. Chief, Admin Staff			[Signature]	
12. Chief, Analysis Group	n/s		[Signature]	
13. Admin Staff			[Signature]	
14.				
15. Exec. Reg.				

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

PANAMA BUREAU

**DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004**

6 July 1987
MPA-7012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- June 1987

I. GENERAL

A. Comments by the recently retired Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF) chief of staff implicating PDF head General Manuel Noriega in corruption and election fraud ignited a month of protests in Panama and focused attention on the Panamanian Government. Following antigovernment demonstrations of a scope not seen in 20 years, the government instituted a state of emergency on 11 June and censored all opposition media. U.S. media reporting on the situation, specifically the MIAMI HERALD and the two CNN stations available in Panama, were also temporarily suspended.

Official State Department reaction to the situation and the subsequent Senate resolution urging democracy in Panama set off a wave of progovernment and anti-U.S. demonstrations along with a call for the ouster of U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis. In fact, the Panamanian Government lifted the state of emergency on 29 June just in time for a violent military-sponsored progovernment demonstration at the U.S. Embassy. Demonstrators pelted the embassy with rocks and paint balloons and damaged several nearby U.S. mission buildings, including the consulate and USIS. In addition, several cars identified from license plates or military stickers as belonging to U.S. personnel were damaged or destroyed. At month's end, U.S.-Panamanian relations remain extremely tense.

B. In addition to the substantial operational demands placed on the bureau by developments in Panama, the long-fought battle to begin Internet transmissions suffered another setback when on 30 June the Panamanian Government arbitrarily ordered Intercomsa, the COMSAT subsidiary responsible for operating Internet, not to operate the system. Thus, the Internet transmission (NHK feed of BBC's "Six o'Clock News") we had begun on 29 June was stopped, pending further technical and legal discussions.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. After an evening shift of covering initial Panamanian opposition reaction to the recently revived charges against the government, senior editor [redacted] was at home watching Panamanian television when at 0115 he heard a brief announcement that a state of emergency had been declared throughout Panama. [redacted] immediately notified chief editor [redacted] and together they reopened the bureau, calling in monitor [redacted] and teletypist [redacted]. Before [redacted] arrived, however, [redacted] had already translated the state of emergency declaration and had begun an open speaker watch. As a result, both the embassy and the U.S. Southern Command received first official word of the state of emergency from FBIS.

STAT

STAT
STAT
STAT
SIAI

2. Because of the important role opposition media played in the unfolding Panamanian crisis, U.S. mission offices depended heavily on Panama Bureau reporting, particularly up until the Panamanian Government declared the state of emergency and censored opposition media. During the initial days of the crisis, editors were in phone contact with embassy and military consumers several times a day. To ensure complete coverage, the bureau added two midnight shifts, on 10 and 11 June, to cover the first two nights under the state of emergency.

3. Panama Bureau's ability to cover Peruvian radio and television live from ROSET during a mid-June cabinet crisis in Peru helped promote another look at the best way FBIS could ensure timely coverage of Peru, particularly in the event of a crisis. At Paraguay Bureau's initiative, it was decided that Panama Bureau would assume primary coverage responsibility of Peru until Paraguay Bureau's second ROSET, now scheduled for early FY88, became operational. Panama Bureau assumed primary coverage responsibility for Peru on 29 June. Paraguay Bureau is retaining its contractor in Lima and coverage of the Peruvian press.

4. A 4 1/2-hour speech by Fidel Castro on 24 June detailing two recent personnel problems -- the corruption case of Luis Orlando Dominguez and the defection of General Rafael del Pino -- was jointly covered with Key West Bureau. Key West provided FYI coverage and texted the first hour of the speech, and we texted the remaining 3 1/2 hours. Because the speech was not carried by Cuban media monitorable at Panama Bureau, we texted our portion of the speech from a phonepatch prearranged with Key West. Reception of the patch was poor in places, and Key West was forced to file fills to much of the portion of the speech Panama Bureau texted.

B. Communications

On 8 June the bureau's [] primary communications circuit was upgraded from 150 to 300 baud.

STAT

C. Cruising

1. The bureau's signal analysis antenna's control system remained inoperative throughout the month, and cruising use of the antenna was restricted to the 24.5W Intelsat. We were able to provide some flexibility by running a coaxial cable from Main Radio to the analysis console. This allowed us access to the radio frequency signals from each of the other four operational antennas. Despite some loss in signal DB and some confusion in equipment patching, the temporary system worked well and provided bureau cruisers and technicians with good experience.

2. We observed and sampled a new Mexico City television transmission, XHTV Television Canal 4, over the 113.5W Morelos satellite. The television's newscast at 0200-0300 GMT has replaced the 0300-0330 GMT Imevision newscast on bureau coverage.

3. Throughout most of the month, the cruising section conducted a round-the-clock survey of Nicaraguan radios to provide detailed programming and broadcast behavior.

D. Technical

1. During the month, we received the B-Mac video encoding equipment to be used with the Internet system. The B-Mac equipment was installed by [] from Comsat Labs. [] also provided instruction on operation and maintenance.

STAT

2. Also in conjunction with Internet operation, we received one Merlin Television Standards Converter. The unit has been checked out and appears to have solved problems we had originally experienced in transmitting NTSC video from one television signal (Lima television) and from video recorders through the B-Mac system.

3. On 1 July, bureau technicians installed a repaired elevation drive motor on the bureau's signal analysis antenna. After receiving the necessary parts from headquarters, we were able to have the motor repaired locally. Installation was not an easy task, considering that the motor weighs 400 lbs and had to be installed 30 ft above ground.

4. During the Army's Department of Engineering and Housing's installation of the new power line, the cables leading to two of the bureau's rhombic antennas were accidentally cut. Steps have been taken to repair the cables.

5. The following accountable property was received from headquarters:

a. One receiver W/J model 8718, Serial No. 1134. Requisition No. 0532-87146-712. Unit Price: \$4,646.00

b. One Multimeter Digital Fluke, Model 8026B, Serial No. 425029. Requisition No. 0532-87089-707-1F. Unit Price: \$219.00

c. One oscilloscope, Simpson model 452 dual trace, Serial No. 01257. Requisition No. 0532-87093-708. Unit Price: \$873.05

d. One quartz watchman's clock, w/carrying case, Model 50-3, Serial No. 82004690. Requisition No. 0532-87120-008-1F. Unit Price: \$538.00

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Senior editor [] has been named bureau communications officer. In this capacity, [] will have first-line supervisory responsibility for communications personnel and issues.

STAT
STAT

2. Recent events in Panama have demonstrated a need for editors living on base to be prepared to assume as many functions as possible in operating the bureau in the event circumstances prevent local personnel from having access to the bureau. Thus, communications chief [] has begun training editors in how to punch and send material over the bureau's communications circuits.

STAT

3. Interviews continue for the bureau's newly created logistics specialist position. We expect to decide on candidate by the end of July.

B. Building and Grounds

The bureau chief's office has been remodeled to make room for a secretarial/reception area. Contractor [] performed the construction work.

STAT

IV. VISITS

1.
Central America Joint Intelligence Task Force to the bureau on 10 June for a briefing and orientation.

STAT

2. Major Henry Black, Captain Juan Fuentes, and Staff Sergeant Michael Thompson, USSOUTHCOM J-3, to the bureau on 18 June for briefing and orientation.

STAT

Chief, Panama Bureau

Panama Bureau Production Report for June 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	523300
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	34290
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1131

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	12115.00 min.	78590.00 min.	220.00 issues

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

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish		4330	
-----------------------------------	--	------	--

CHILE

Santiago Television Service in Spanish	0		
Santiago Television Nacional Chile Network in Spanish	260		

CLANDESTINE

Clandestine La Voz Popular in Spanish to Guatemala	830		
Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	2890		
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	11270		

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	0		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	6060		
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 1 in Spanish	3210		
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 2 in Spanish	0		
Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish	130		

- 2 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish			0
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			5310
COSTA RICA			
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	10410		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			130
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			510
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			1740
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			0
San Jose RUMBO in Spanish			0
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	980		
Havana International Service in Spanish	44650		
Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	23350		
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		5200	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		5900	
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	1860		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	3440		
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	3090		
San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish	6280		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	12920		

- 3 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish	0		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	630		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	8530		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	4090		
San Salvador Television Nacional in Spanish	460		
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			380
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			0
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			1830
San Salvador LA NOTICIA in Spanish			730
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			1370
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		0	
Paris AFP in Spanish		20190	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		11000	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	1570		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	800		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish	600		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	6450		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			2940
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1900

- 4 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	2130		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	2190		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	0		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	6890		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			1960
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			2110
Tegucigalpa EL HERRALDO in Spanish			1720
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			680
MEXICO			
Mexico City Red Nacional 13 IMEVISION Television in Spanish	2410		
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	1190		
Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish	2200		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		1340	
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish		530	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			410
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			1090
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			920
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			0
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			1180
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	2120		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	14190		

- 5 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	3460		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	18790		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	4110		
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish			0
Managua ANN in Spanish		11750	
Managua NOTISAL in Spanish			0
Managua NOTISAL-SALPRESS in Spanish			0
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish to PRENSA LATINA Havana		3160	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			15120
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			3720
PANAMA			
Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish	910		
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	15670		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	24990		
Panama City Panavision Television in Spanish	3250		
Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish	22820		
Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish	3310		
Panama City Radio Uno Soberana in Spanish	5730		
Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish	3660		
Panama City Television Service in Spanish			0
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	11620		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		36220	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			17580

- 6 -

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			0
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			1240
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			670
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			13730
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			7350
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			0
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			4660
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			8190
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			0
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			560
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
Panama City EL SIGLO DOMINICAL in Spanish			0
PERU			
Lima Domestic Service in Spanish	5440		
Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish	630		
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	530		
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		7540	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	2910		
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			500
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			0

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JUNE 1987 -- ANNEXTOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES

COLOMBIA	
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 1 in Spanish	3,210
CUBA	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	5,900
MEXICO	
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	1,190
Mexico City Red Nacional IMEVISION Television in Spanish	2,410
Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish	2,200
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	1,340
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish	530
NICARAGUA	
Managua ANN in Spanish	11,750
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish to PRENSA LATINA Havana	3,160
PERU	
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	530
Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish	630
SPAIN	
Madrid EFE in Spanish	1,200
VENEZUELA	
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	2,910
TOTAL FOR JUNE 1987	<hr/> 36,960