

3 April 1987

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

I. GENERAL

A. On 1 April, our embassy in Panama City received a Panamanian Government diplomatic note approving the bureau's Internet frequency request. Specifically, the Panamanian note grants permission for the bureau to construct an earth station and to transmit material to an Intelsat satellite. Thus, this approval paves the way for the bureau's participation in Internet. It also marks the end of an intense 10-and-a-half-month effort by the bureau and U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis on our behalf.

B. Earlier in the month, on 13 March, the embassy received the other long-awaited diplomatic note from the Panamanian Government. This note approved the bureau's request to establish a microwave communications link between the bureau and the embassy via a relay point on Ancon Hill. Construction of the microwave system will begin in approximately three months, which is the time it will take for the necessary equipment to arrive from the United States. The new microwave system should substantially upgrade overall bureau communications. In addition to increasing the speed and reliability of our primary communications circuit, the new system could aid us in improving the quality of our telephone communications and reception of the REUTER, ACAN-EFE, AND DPA press agencies.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. After several months of relatively low wordage, bureau production increased significantly in March as a result of several noteworthy events. Among these events were Honduran-Nicaraguan border clashes, the mysterious downing of a DC-3 in Honduras, an increase in political and military activity by rebels in both El Salvador and Nicaragua, high-level North Korean and Soviet leader visits to Nicaragua and Cuba, and natural and manmade upheavals in Ecuador.

2. We instituted two open-speaker watches during the month. The first was to cover Ecuadoran radio stations during Vice President Bush's brief visit to deliver aid to victims of the 5 March earthquake. The second watch was instituted in response to reports that a U.S. Army adviser had been killed in a Salvadoran rebel attack against the 4th Infantry Brigade in Chalatenango Department. On this occasion, we filed several reports from both government and rebel media and kept close watch on overall media behavior.

3. Shortly before the Salvadoran rebels launched a 31 March attack on a major Salvadoran military base, the bureau began to observe changes in behavior of the two rebel radio stations: Farabundo Marti and Venceremos. The first change involved the return of Farabundo Marti. Between 11 November and 19 March, we had not observed the radio except for brief sporadic transmissions. Although poor reception of the radio still often precludes processing of items, it appears as if the radio has resumed regular transmissions. The other Salvadoran rebel radio station, Radio Venceremos, is now observed using two or more frequencies in the same meter band, the first time we have seen Venceremos do this.

B. Communications

With Panamanian approval of the bureau's microwave communications request in hand, headquarters decided to cancel the requirement for the bureau to take part in the Army's current autodin MUX plan. Although the bureau will try to keep its current autodin circuit through the end of this year, we plan to take bureau communications off autodin completely by 1 January 1988.

C. Lateral Services

1. One of the bureau chief's findings during his recent Central America trip was that almost all U.S. Embassies in Central America are extremely interested in media reports of "contra" activity in Nicaragua. After confirming this interest with each embassy, we asked Liaison and Requirements Branch to institute a new lateral service based on this requirement.

2. At the request of the Panama Canal Commission, the bureau translated a press interview with Panama's Democratic Revolutionary Party Chairman Carlos Escobar and delivered the translation to the Commission's headquarters.

3. The Southern Command's J-2 contacted the bureau concerning media reports on popular support inside Nicaragua for the contras. Subsequently, an officer from J-2 visited the bureau, and we gave him access to our Nicaragua files so he could search for items of possible interest to J-2.

D. Technical

1. Thanks primarily to the persistence of the bureau's technical staff, the bureau's remote line to Managua became fully operational once again on 31 March after almost eight months of continuous problems. For the moment at least, all bureau Central American remote lines are fully operational.

2. In the course of ROSET cruising, the bureau discovered some regular television feeds of live BBC and other ad hoc newscasts. The newscasts are actually being carried in feeds from NHK London to NHK Tokyo on the 1.0W Intelsat. We are currently exploring these feeds in depth.

3. The bureau received the following accountable property from headquarters:

Four vertical cabinets, 19" panel width, Optima P/N R-771930.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Editor [redacted] departed Panama 21 March after successful completion of his editorial training TDY.

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2. The bureau continued to provide Key West with TDY help in the monitorial and communications areas. [redacted] was the bureau's first teletypist TDYer, arriving in Key West 9 March. Monitor [redacted] returned to the bureau 21 March from a 4-week TDY and was replaced by Senior Monitor [redacted]

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B. Building and Grounds

1. The bureau's emergency generator became operational once again on 26 March after installation of a repaired voltage regulator.

2. In conjunction with a planned electrical power upgrade, the Army began building just outside the bureau compound a pad for new power transformers. The planned upgrade includes a new power cable from Ft. Clayton to the bureau.

IV. VISITS

1. The bureau chief was away from the bureau 15 March - 6 April for the Bureau Chiefs Conference and annual leave.

2. On 30 March, the acting chief and chief engineer visited Colonel Robert Abney, commander of the U.S. Army Information Systems Command, to discuss FBIS's decision to cancel planned participation in the Army's autodin communications upgrade.



Acting Chief,
Panama Bureau, FBIS

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Panama Bureau Production Report for March 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	471470
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	15510
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1124

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	11345.00 min.	76590.00 min.	220.00 issues
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (publishable words per month)			

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in
Spanish

2160

CHILE

Santiago Television Service in
Spanish

0

CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Venceremos in
Spanish to El Salvador

12530

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in
Spanish

820

Bogota Domestic Service in
Spanish

0

Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in
Spanish

2700

Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 1
in
Spanish

5660

Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 2
in
Spanish

1230

Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in
Spanish

380

Bogota EL SIGLO in
Spanish

3030

Bogota EL TIEMPO in
Spanish

3260

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
COSTA RICA			
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	11710		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			1720
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			360
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			2870
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			800
San Jose RUMBO in Spanish			880
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	910		
Havana International Service in Spanish	64730		
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		3250	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		20950	
ECUADOR			
Quito Domestic Service in Spanish	5240		
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	7180		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	9460		
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	5300		
San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish	3020		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish	1760		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	8660		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	5710		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	0		
San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish	1820		
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			860
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			1250
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			2070
San Salvador LA NOTICIA in Spanish			300
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			2680
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		0	
Paris AFP in Spanish		22060	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		9010	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	4230		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	9060		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish	370		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	5960		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			280
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			390
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	4450		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	1630		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	2640		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	9860		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			1130
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			4500
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			300
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			1230
MEXICO			
Mexico City Red Nacional 13 IMEVISION Television in Spanish	4500		
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	9650		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		750	
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish		880	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			20790
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			4280
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			11000
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			1470
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			4130
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	3060		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	15270		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	0		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	5230		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	960		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		0	
Managua ANN in Spanish		8260	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish to PRENSA LATINA Havana		6190	
Managua SALPRESS-NOTISAL in Spanish		620	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			14300
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			4080
PANAMA			
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	880		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	5770		
Panama City Television Service in Spanish	670		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	570		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		23010	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			5060
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			0
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			1840
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			560
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			1590
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			4750
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			1540
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			2120
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			2080
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			550
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			0
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City EL SIGLO DOMINICAL in Spanish			0
PERU			
Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish	0		
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	0		
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		18020	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	14200		
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			480
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			0

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

COLOMBIA

Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 1 in Spanish	5,660
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 2 in Spanish	1,230

CUBA

Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	20,950
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GERMANY

Hamburg DPA in Spanish	1,270
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MEXICO

Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	9,650
Mexico City Red Nacional IMEVISION Television in Spanish	4,500
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	750
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish	880

NICARAGUA

Managua ANN in Spanish	8,260
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish to PRENSA LATINA Havana	6,190
Managua SALPRESS-NOTISAL in Spanish	620

SPAIN

Madrid EFE in Spanish	700
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VENEZUELA

Caracas Television Service in Spanish	14,200
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TOTAL FOR MARCH 1987	74,860
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