



ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

*OPM-11-5
STAT*

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Key West Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

September 1988

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.

C/Ops

12 Oct [initials]

2.

3.

A/C/E&PS

12 Oct W

4.

DD/FBIS

14 Oct B

5.

~~D/FBIS~~

6.

7.

PO/RA

10/14 Om

8.

SA/CD

10/17 [initials]

9.

C/E&PS

h

10.

~~D/FBIS~~

C/AS

[initials]

7

11.

~~D/C/AS~~

10/18 [initials]

C/B&F/AS

[initials]

12.

C/O&ERS

[initials]

13.

14.

C/AG

11/10 m

[initials]

15.

Exec. Reg.

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU



MAIN P.O. BOX 1056
KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33041-1056

NAVAL AIR STATION
[redacted] STAT
OFFICE: (305) 296-3444
(305) 294-4338
(305) 292-5291
TELEX: 803046

FBIS-4062-88
1 October 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--September 1988

I. GENERAL

1. We received word from the American Embassy in Santo Domingo regarding our request to start an operation there similar to the one we have in Port-au-Prince. Though the embassy was unable to accommodate a contract monitor, it gave us the go ahead to set up an unattended remote site instead. The bureau chief was working out the details during his trip to headquarters for the Bureau Chiefs Conference.

2. Hurricane Gilbert missed Key West though it did produce plenty of wind and rain. It also gave us a chance to use the storm shutters in our houses for the first time. The shutters were quickly and easily put into place thanks to our intrepid bureau chief who did not mind hanging out of second-story windows to secure them. Special hooks are in the planning stage.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Rumors circulating in Port-au-Prince even before the St Jean Bosco Church "massacre" on 11 September, became a reality a week later when a group of enlisted men and NCO's ousted Lt Gen Henri Namphy and appointed the former head of the Presidential Guard, Lt Gen Prosper Avril, in his place. The Wire first alerted the deputy chief at home in the evening of the 17th. We in turn informed our contractor in Port-au-Prince, [redacted] who confirmed from her home that she could hear shooting in the area of the Presidential Palace. Though we were unable to get through to her a second time that evening, we nevertheless opened the bureau for a special shift the next day, Sunday, hoping to be able to establish contact. Thanks to the American Embassy, which provided safe transportation, Maria was all set up to go in mid-morning, when she processed the coup proclamation from recordings she had made at home in the early morning hours.

Our efforts -- both [redacted] and the bureau's -- and our continuing reportage were formally and informally acknowledged by various consumers.

STAT

STAT

2. While events in Haiti gave us our day in the sun, the bearded one did not fade gently into the background. On the first of September, Fidel treated graduating doctors to an 88-minute pep talk focusing on one of his pet projects, the family doctor program. Later in the month he had a chance to discuss one of his passions when he met with the Cuban team that had just won the world baseball championship. Alas, these might have been Castro's only light moments in September. On the 12th, the British Government expelled the Cuban ambassador and the third secretary after the latter shot it out with a Cuban defector in the streets of London. On the 15th, a UN Human Rights Commission delegation began its fact-finding mission. September also brought a new minister of agriculture and a new head for Juceplan, Cuba's planning board, as well as a 3-day joint meeting of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat that signaled further economic austerity. Finally, Fidel let his feelings show at the end of the month when in a speech to 173 athletes whom he was awarding the "Sports Honor Medal" he chided "socialist countries" for competing in the Seoul Olympics.

3. Our simultaneous monitoring of the coup proclamation over Haitian radio and television resulted in new sourcelines for our Haitian coverage. The exchange with MOD in turn led to a reformulation of long-standing policy for Havana simulcasts. What used to be Havana Domestic Service is now Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services.

B. Technical/Cruising

1. While arrangements for our remote site in Santo Domingo were underway, both our cruiser and our monitor/editors expended considerable time and effort during the latter part of the month in monitoring the early morning casts of Dominican radios, primarily to try to cover the activities of deposed Haitian President Henri Namphy in Santo Domingo where he went after the coup. Despite generally poor overall reception, we were able to wirefile several items from these casts.

2. Bureau lost daytime reception of Radio Jamaica (RJR) when Hurricane Gilbert passed over the island on 12 September. Reception of Jamaica's other radio network, JBC, is also poor.

3. Our cruiser began seasonal monitoring of Moscow's fall broadcast schedules during the last week of the month, with initial focus on relays of those international services by Cuba-based shortwave and medium-wave transmitters.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

A prospective candidate for a monitor/editor position from Puerto Rico was unable to come to Key West for further testing. She has been rescheduled for October.

In the meantime, three enlisted men stationed at the Key West Naval Station at various times rang our bell or phoned describing themselves as Spanish linguists interested in a job with FBIS. All three were given the written Spanish test. Unfortunately, the Spanish proficiency of one was not high enough; another, a native Spanish speaker, did not possess a sufficiently strong command of English. We are awaiting to hear from the third, also a native speaker.

B. Building and grounds

Three diseased palm trees that might have toppled over during strong winds and damaged a nearby antenna wire and a storage shed were cut down. We still have one remaining palm tree which should bear enough coconuts to enable us to prepare "coquito" come Christmas.

A beach cleanup was also conducted in the housing area.

IV. VISITS

To the Bureau:

Lt Col Ladewig, CO, 6947th Electronic Security Squadron in Key West, 8 September

From the Bureau:

Bureau chief, FBIS HQS, 17 September-2 October

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The bureau chief attended a retirement ceremony for Col Wayne Topp, deputy commander of U.S. Forces Caribbean, on 9 September.

[Redacted Signature]

Acting Chief, Key West Bureau

STAT

cc: C/Panama Bureau, C/Paraguay Bureau