

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET				
SUBJECT: (Optional) Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau				
FROM: Chief, Operations Group		EXTENSION	NO.	DATE March 1988 STAT
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)		RECEIVED	FORWARDED	
		COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)		
1.	AC/Ops	18 APR 1988		<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
2.				
3.	C/E&PS	<i>18 Apr</i>		<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
4.	DD/FBIS			
5.	D/FBIS			<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
6.				
7.	PO/RA	4/19		<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
8.	SA/CD	4/19		<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
9.	C/AS	4/21		<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
10.	C/AS C/PERS C/DOBS			<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
11.	C/B&F/AS			<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
12.	<i>SA/FBIS</i>	<i>28 Apr</i>		<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
13.				
14.	C/AG		<i>2/5</i>	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
15.	Exec. Reg.			

FBIS-5206-88
6 April 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- March 1988

I. GENERAL

A. The bean dip meter reached unprecedented levels in March as U.S. economic measures to oust General Noriega combined with the closing of all banks and an extended general strike by the opposition to paralyze the country. An unsuccessful military coup in mid-month aggravated the already precarious security situation, leading to the declaration of a state of emergency on 18 March that remains in effect. Although by month's end the general strike had begun to dissipate, there is still very little cash in the country, and various payrolls continue to go unmet. The average Panamanian is feeling the economic squeeze, but there is no sign Noriega is considering an extended leave of absence.

Because the U.S. Government does not recognize the current Panamanian regime, diplomatic contact is nonexistent. Although the USIS Public Affairs Officer, better known as our [staff] secretary's husband, and the embassy's economic counselor were declared persona non grata in March, the embassy has refused to acknowledge either expulsion order. The current noncontact has had negative consequences on administrative areas as well, and we are currently taking steps to deal with possible repercussions on the personnel turnover this summer.

B. For the time being, the Panamanian regime and Defense Forces (PDF) have guaranteed the safety of all U.S. citizens. For the week following the abortive coup, however, the security situation was uncertain, and the PDF had set up checkpoints throughout the city to look for weapons and fugitive coup participants. On the evening of the coup attempt, those who braved the ride into town witnessed shootings and were forced to drive around or through several smoldering barricades. The following evening, the bureau bus was stopped and searched seven times on the way home from evening shift, once being surrounded by PDF soldiers carrying automatic weapons. As a result of the tenuous security situation, state of emergency, and prolonged utility outages in Panama City, several bureau employees took up

offers to stay at the Ft. Clayton TDY house or with on-base staffers for several days following the attempted coup.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. There were several long nights in March. In addition to coverage of the ongoing Panama crisis, which included two flash messages, other significant events in our area warranted staying open well past our normal midnight COB. The surprising Sapoa peace talks between the Sandinistas and contras, a Honduran-Nicaraguan border conflict, reaction to the sending of the U.S. 82d Airborne to Honduras, and an important ARENA victory in the Salvadoran assembly elections attracted a great deal of attention. The fact that several of these events occurred concurrently helped make closing on time the exception rather than the rule. Two shifts during the month were awarded the official "Shift From Hell" designation.

2. In a scene reminiscent of the filming of the last M*A*S*H* TV program, the bureau bid a fond and tearful farewell to primary coverage of Peru on 31 March. Although we retain some contact with the land of the llamas through our coverage of the Western press agencies, Paraguay Bureau has now reassumed primary coverage courtesy of its new ROSET.

B. Cruising

Staff cruising officer [redacted] and cruising monitor [redacted] conducted a week-long survey in Costa Rica to follow up on a 1986 reception survey from that country. Although reception of Panamanian media was not possible and Nicaraguan television could no longer be observed from Liberia, site of the 1986 survey, reception checks from the coast of the Gulf of Papagayo in Guanacaste Province were promising. The survey determined that reception of Nicaraguan radio and television audio and of at least one radio from each of the other Central American countries was possible from the gulf area.

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C. Communications

1. We conducted a series of successful modem tests between the bureau and headquarters and between a remote site and headquarters. In an emergency we can now transmit items and other material to headquarters over a modem attached to a Victor workstation -- as long as a telephone line at the bureau or

remote site is working. Editors are currently being trained in modem operation.

2. On 11 March, the bureau took part in a test of the Bach 2.1 and Transmit 1.1 software and the new message format to be introduced later this spring. The test was successful, and we experienced no ill effects on our communications or the LAN.

E. Lateral Services

At a briefing for various local government components on 9 March, SOUTHCOM J-2 singled out two recent bureau products for praise: an FYI providing comprehensive Panamanian radio, television, and newspaper affiliations; and the interception and translation of a clandestine opposition broadcast that interrupted the proregime Panama Domestic Service during coverage of a pro-Noriega rally in Colon.

F. Technical

1. Motorola radios have been installed in all bureau buses and two office vehicles. The base station is located in the bureau's Main Radio section. As a result, those in bureau vehicles may communicate with the bureau or embassy marine guards.

2. The bureau submitted a formal request to Intel (Panamanian telecommunications authority) for a direct four-wire line to be installed for selective signaling communications (voice circuit) between the bureau and the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica.

3. The following accountable property was received from headquarters:

-- 25 boxes Milliken module carpets, 18" square carpet tiles pattern no. 2100-418, pattern names corporate square color no. 301-Brownstone. requisition no. PRF-7/1170 unit price: \$95.00. total price: \$2,375.00

4. We transferred the following accountable property to headquarters (excess equipment from the FBA installation):

ITEM NO.	TAG NO.	SERIAL NUMBER	PART NUMBER	PART DESCRIPTION
1	2750	611010909C	2620-1	Victor VPC II computer
2	2948	612012285C	2620-1	Victor VPC II computer

3	2846	611011392C	2620-1	Victor VPC II computer
4	2751	V3000191G	DM-14	Victor/ADI monitor
5	2943	V3000349G	DM-14	Victor/ADI monitor
6	2847	V3000112G	DM-14	Victor/ADI monitor
7	2845	609603937	108659-01	VPC II keyboard
8	2830	609604073	108659-01	VPC II keyboard
9	1722	SGT26821	ACL8010	Stargate ACL board
10	----	23608	ST-4096	80MB hard disk drive
11	2886	L119294	82200040-05	G/net NIM board
12	1660	L101821	82200040-05	G/net NIM board
13	----	612001013	108006-01	V286 system board
14	QTY 2	-----	279296-502	LZR-1200 drum cartridge
15	QTY 2	-----	279295-001	LZR-1200 developer cartidge.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Teletypist [] gave birth to a beautiful 9-lb, 4-oz daughter, [] on 23 March.

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B. Building and Grounds

1. DEH replaced the motor on the bureau's water pump on 22 March.
2. Contractor Taller Raulito completed the painting of the Roset antennas.

IV. VISITS

LEC contractor [] who so patiently guided the bureau through automation over the last two months, departed Panama on 19 March.

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V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

1. Although social activities have been severely curtailed as a result of the current situation, the local sports scene remained active as [] (LF) and [] (SS) both batted over .600 in leading the Dips (U.S. Embassy annex) softball team to the regular season championship of the Community Recreation Division's (CRD) Civilian League. We say "leading" here only because we don't think anyone else on the team will read this monthly report.

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2. Also on the local sports scene, [redacted] made it to the finals of the CRD civilian tennis tournament before succumbing to the first person who was able to effectively counter [redacted] pregame strategy (taken from the U.S. State Department manual) of blockading the tennis courts. From that point on, threats of economic sanctions and offerings of conditional aid proved useless.

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Chief, Panama Bureau

Panama Bureau Production Report for MARCH 1988

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	408120
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	64760
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	970

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	15685.00 min.	74700.00 min.	220.00 issues
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (publishable words per month)			

CLANDESTINE

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	0
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	19080

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish	3260
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COLOMBIA

Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	2550	
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 1 in Spanish	7410	
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 2 in Spanish	580	
Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish	1940	
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish		0
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish		0

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	9660
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	7300

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			300
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			0
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			780
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			0
San Jose RUMBO in Spanish			0
CUBA			
Havana CUBAVISION Television in Spanish	0		
Havana International Service in Quechua	770		
Havana International Service in Spanish	4830		
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		0	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		10550	
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	450		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	1010		
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	2310		
San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish	360		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish	0		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	990		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	1270		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	3260		
San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish	0		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Television Nacional in Spanish	840		
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			0
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			510
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			470
San Salvador LA NOTICIA in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in Spanish		26970	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		10340	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	0		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish	160		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	0		
Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish	1680		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			1020
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			870
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	830		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	7580		
Tegucigalpa Telecadena 7 y 4 in Spanish	0		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	0		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tegucigalpa VICA Television in Spanish	1980		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	4770		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			0
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			310
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			400
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			60
MEXICO			
Mexico City Red Nacional 13 IMEVISION Television in Spanish	3280		
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3840		
Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish	1130		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		1140	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			2150
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			460
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			4840
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			680
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			1670
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	0		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	45310		
Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish	670		
Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish	1940		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	210		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	8590		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	1800		

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		940	
Managua ANN in Spanish		5180	
Managua NOTISAL in Spanish		0	
Managua NOTISAL-SALPRESS in Spanish		0	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish to PRENSA LATINA Havana		1380	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			4210
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			0
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			460
PANAMA			
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	5510		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	39850		
Panama City Radio Alegre in Spanish	380		
Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish	1080		
Panama City Radio Verbo in Spanish	1970		
Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish	3000		
Panama City Television Service in Spanish	17050		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	15960		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		25830	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			13180
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			0
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			0
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			0
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			12990
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			810

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			1430
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			9000
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			2500
Panama City QUIUBO in Spanish			0
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
Panama City EL SIGLO DOMINICAL in Spanish			0
PERU			
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	16680		
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		9400	
USSR			
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Spanish	0		
Moscow in Spanish to Latin America	510		
Moscow in Spanish to Cuba	420		
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	140		
Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish	3100		
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			0
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			0

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1988 -- ANNEXTOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES

COLOMBIA	
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 1 in Spanish	7,410
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 2 in Spanish	580
CUBA	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	10,550
MEXICO	
Mexico City Red Nacional 13 IMEVISION Television in Spanish	3,280
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3,840
Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish	1,130
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	1,140
NICARAGUA	
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish	940
Managua ANN in Spanish	5,180
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish to PRENSA LATINA Havana	1,380
PERU	
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	16,680
VENEZUELA	
Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish	3,100

TOTAL FOR MARCH 1988	55,210