

 OPM-11

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

February 1988

STAT

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

	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED	
1. C/Ops	11 Mar		B
2.			
3. C/E&PS	14 Mar		J
4. DD/FBIS	3/14		G
5. D/FBIS	-		R
6.			
7. PO/RA	3/14		Om
8. SA/CD	3/15		Ent
9.			
10. C/AS	15 Mar		CD
11. C/B&F/AS			Ben
12. C/PERS			JS
13. C/ESG - p.2 Graf B	3/17	3/17	seen
14. C/AG		2/13	me
15. Exec. Reg.			

Handwritten notes and initials in the right margin of the routing table.

2 March 1988

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

I. GENERAL

A. The 5 February indictment of Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF) commander Manuel Noriega by U.S. federal courts in Miami and Tampa began a chain of events that by month's end had resulted in another major government crisis which further strained U.S.-Panamanian relations. An attempt by President Delvalle to replace Noriega on 25 February failed when the largely pro-PDF legislature reacted immediately by removing Delvalle and Vice President Roderick Esquivel from office for allegedly violating the Panamanian constitution. Although Noriega and his newly appointed ministers clearly maintained control of the country, The United States continued to recognize Delvalle, and general confusion ruled as several other countries struggled to decide which side to support.

The pro-Noriega forces reacted to the charges and pressure against their leader with a barrage of anti-U.S. rhetoric, the centerpiece being a campaign to expel the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) from Panama. Part of this campaign included one or two mentions of sophisticated espionage stations, one in Chiva Chiva, that contribute to SOUTHCOM's evil intentions. But the bureau has yet to be singled out for special attention, as it was in the summer of 1987. Despite what was and remains a potentially volatile situation, things remain relatively calm. Both U.S. and Panamanian military officials have gone out of their way to stress that no retaliatory action is planned by either side. Isolated incidents, however, have not been ruled out and in fact are expected. One such event occurred when General Noriega's daughter and son-in-law were stopped and detained briefly on a U.S. base for speeding and offensive actions. The next day some 30 U.S. servicemen driving to work were stopped and detained for a few hours. This was the only untoward event of the month involving U.S. personnel.

As usual in Panama crises, the lack of facts and hard information has resulted in rumors galore and the resulting confusion. Bureau personnel, somewhat hardened to events by past

experience and a strong sense of deja vu, have exhibited a strong sense of professionalism. They have taken developments in stride, keeping everything in perspective. The bureau has reinstated the same personal safety measures employed last summer to minimize transportation problems. We continue to strive for a very low profile.

BBC newsroom editor [] arrived at the bureau for an orientation visit just as the bean dip was hitting the fan. His luggage was the first casualty of the day, as it failed to make the trip from Miami. The deputy chief scraped together an assortment of "one-size-fits-all" clothing to assist him in his hours of need, which turned out to be considerable because his bag had still not showed up when he departed several days later for Paraguay. On the evening President DelValle announced he had replaced General Noriega the bureau invited [] back for the evening shift to observe and participate in the bureau's handling of a crisis situation. [] found himself phoning in certain information for the BBC, and with no BBC representation on the local scene was told to stay on a few days in a semi-official capacity until a BBC news team arrived.

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B. FBA progress continued. System administrator and technician training and system debugging resumed after a brief LEC hiatus early in the month. Despite a major LAN crash on 23 February, the system continued to work well in general and proved its worth during the first day of the Panamanian Government crisis of 25-26 February. As a result of the LAN, we were able to file 60 priority or above items over three shifts without at any time facing a communications room backlog.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The situation in Panama was the primary focus of our operational effort for the month. In addition to the heavy coverage the Noriega indictment and Panamanian Government reaction prompted, the government crisis of 25-26 February resulted in the bureau's staying open all night to cover Delvalle's removal and his replacement's appointment and acceptance speech. Continuous coverage of and numerous open speaker watches on Panamanian Government and opposition media also entailed a substantial effort by cruisers, main radio boardmen, and monitors.

2. Despite our focus on Panama, events in Nicaragua also required attention. The introduction of monetary reform and a new currency resulted in another very late night for the bureau, and the ongoing issue of government-contra cease-fire talks continued to generate much high-priority copy. Also, the reappearance of a second opposition-oriented radio, Radio Corporacion, led us to add another newscast to an already

crowded Managua listening menu.

3. On the organizational side, new procedures that return translating and monitoring responsibilities to the shift supervisor went into full swing. Although shift supervisors retain responsibility for coordinating the monitorial workload of a shift, they are now also expected to engage regularly in translating and monitoring. To give supervisors time for these tasks, all other monitors have assumed monitorial responsibility on a rotating basis for the bureau's eight press agencies.

B. Communications

On 24 February, the bureau lost access to its remote lines to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador as a result of the destruction of a microwave relay tower north of Managua. Damage to all communications traveling northward from Nicaragua was extensive, and it is expected the lines will not be restored until the second week of March.

C. Lateral Services

1. Immediately following Panamanian President Delvalle's attempt to replace General Noriega on 25 February, the bureau received approximately 10 phone calls, ranging from the DCM's office to USARSO Commander General Loeffke's office, requesting a translation of Delvalle's statement. Although all local offices received the text of Delvalle's statement, some by special courier, within 2 hours, those portions of the statement dealing with Noriega's dismissal and replacement were read over the phone to the USARSO chief of staff's office less than 10 minutes after Delvalle finished speaking.

2. On 15 February, the bureau received a letter of appreciation from Colonel Paul Morgan, U.S. Army South's deputy chief of staff for intelligence, for "outstanding support" on the Panama situation.

D. Technical

1. The bureau was connected to a new primary power system on 1 February. The new system replaces an over 30-year-old 2,400-volt line with a much shorter 11,000-volt line that comes directly from Fort Clayton. In addition, our old 225-KVA transformers have been replaced with 300-KVA units. Because the new power system has much higher voltage, covers a shorter distance, and has a larger capacity, the reliability and stability of the bureau's primary power should improve, even though the old system had remained reliable.

2. By month's end, LEC had trained all main radio boardmen and electronic technicians on LAN operations.

3. The following accountable property was received from headquarters:

- 4 Motorola 83JJA1000CK Mobile Radio s/n 433HMMW1546, 433HMMW1547, 433HMMW1548, and 433HMMW1549. Unit Price: \$1,262.38
- 2 Antenna Transit Dome HB RRA-4418A. Unit Price: \$12.42
- 1 LGTNG/Surge Arrestor RRX-4047A
- 1 Antenna TDD6790A-B 100-ft Coaxial Cable
- pn:30-80329A22
- 1 Grounding Kit Type 204989-1 pn: TDN-6673A
- 1 Base STA Power Supply Model TPN1154A
- 1 Radio, Base station Maxar 80 Model L53TSBH30BM s/n 475FMW1133.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

- 1. Monitor-trainee [redacted] entered on duty 1 February. STAT
- 2. Monitor-trainee [redacted] entered on duty 29 February. STAT

B. Building and Grounds

Contractor Taller Raulito began the annual painting of the Roset antennas.

C. Other

The bureau has completed an Inter-Service Support Agreement with U.S. Army South (USARSO). The agreement formalizes USARSO's responsibility for providing administrative support to FBIS/Panama. It reaffirms current support as well as provides contingencies for some support the bureau has not previously requested. It also solidifies our status as a part of the U.S. military establishment tasked with defense of the canal. The agreement is now being staffed to the appropriate military components.

IV. VISITS

A. The bureau chief and Chief Technician [redacted] made a semiannual TDY to three of the four Central American remote sites and San Jose, Costa Rica, from 1 to 12 February. Visa problems prevented a visit to Managua. STAT SIAI

B. LEC's [redacted] departed Panama 25 February after spending approximately 2 1/2 months--off and on--at the bureau installing and providing training for FBA-1. [redacted] STAT STAT

[redacted] the bureau's last surviving LEC contractor, will remain until the middle of March to provide FBA support and to assist in another project not related to FBA.

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C. USARSO Chief of Staff Colonel A. T. Rossi and ISSA Program Manager Velma Reilly paid a courtesy call on the bureau chief on 17 February and received a briefing and tour.

D. BBC newsroom editor [redacted] visited the bureau 23-25 February.

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[redacted]

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Chief, Panama Bureau

Panama Bureau Production Report for FEBRUARY 1988

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	378040
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	51840
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	768

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	15360.00 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	12450

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish	4760
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COLOMBIA

Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	4000
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 1 in Spanish	4700
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 2 in Spanish	1190
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish	690
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish	6270

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	3670
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	1570
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish	560

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			0
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			80
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			240
San Jose RUMBO in Spanish			0
CUBA			
Havana CUBAVISION Television in Spanish	0		
Havana International Service in Quechua	600		
Havana International Service in Spanish	2710		
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		1460	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		3510	
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	520		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	2170		
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	1520		
San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish	1140		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish	750		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	770		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	2480		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	6820		
San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish	3700		
San Salvador Television Nacional in Spanish	540		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			490
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			280
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			220
San Salvador LA NOTICIA in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			910
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in Spanish		20450	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		4610	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	0		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish	0		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	0		
Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish	1460		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			2960
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			60
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	3120		
Tegucigalpa Telecadena 7 y 4 in Spanish	0		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	1270		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	2310		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			390

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			480
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			60
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			0
MEXICO			
Mexico City Red Nacional 13 IMEVISION Television in Spanish	2120		
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	1370		
Mexico City XHDF Television in Spanish	70		
Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish	2420		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		2330	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			1940
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			100
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			3060
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			250
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			1390
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	0		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	58980		
Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish	2870		
Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish	3620		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	1610		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	17270		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	1360		
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		0	

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua ANN in Spanish		1690	
Managua NOTISAL in Spanish		0	
Managua NOTISAL-SALPRESS in Spanish		0	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish to PRENSA LATINA Havana		470	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			15200
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			280
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			4950
PANAMA			
Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish	660		
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	3020		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	30580		
Panama City Panavision Television in Spanish	2700		
Panama City Radio America in Spanish	330		
Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish	8100		
Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish	2960		
Panama City Radio Verbo in Spanish	280		
Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish	2040		
Panama City Television Service in Spanish	730		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	16800		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		16990	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			6750
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			0
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			1750
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			1960

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			5210
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			12030
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			1290
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			1570
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			3310
Panama City QUIUBO in Spanish			1360
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
Panama City EL SIGLO DOMINICAL in Spanish			0
PERU			
Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish	3500		
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	6190		
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		13440	
USSR			
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Spanish	1000		
Moscow in Spanish to Latin America	230		
Moscow in Spanish to Cuba	360		
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish	1610		
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			0
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			0

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

COLOMBIA

Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 1 in Spanish	4,700
Bogota INRAVISION Television Cadena 2 in Spanish	1,190

CUBA

Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	3,510
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MEXICO

Mexico City Red Nacional 13 IMEVISION Television in Spanish	2,120
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	1,370
Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish	2,420
Mexico City XHDF Television in Spanish	70
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	2,330

NICARAGUA

Managua ANN in Spanish	1,690
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish to PRENSA LATINA Havana	470

PERU

Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish	3,500
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	6,190

VENEZUELA

Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish	1,610
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TOTAL FOR FEBRUARY 1988	31,170
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