

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
KEY WEST BUREAU  
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MFL-5017  
10 June 1985

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--May 1985

I. GENERAL

The long-term on-again, off-again promise of the inauguration of USIA/VOA "Radio Marti" broadcasts to Cuba finally became reality on 20 May. With minimal advance notice, bureau initiated a 24-hr watch on Cuban media on Sunday evening, 19 May, lasting through 31 May. Cuban reaction so far has been restrained. Aside from the immediate suspension of the Cuba-U.S. immigration/travel accord, Radio Havana initiated a new English shortwave broadcast to North America but has not taken any steps toward countering Radio Marti with powerful broadcasts on the mediumwave band which could interfere with many U.S. commercial stations.

The base housing project is finally moving again, with advisory on 4 June that the bid announcement has been released publicly with bid award scheduled for 23 July.

On the local scene, the 2-month-long "Bubba Bust Trial" finally came to an end with the conviction of 12 local notables, including the deputy police chief, in a drug smuggling conspiracy. Judi Bradford, [redacted] reknowned local artisan, also garnered some publicity from the event (see attached Miami Herald story and photo).

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The 20 May inauguration of Radio Marti got both Key West and Panama bureaus into high gear with around-the-clock watch for Cuban reaction. Bureau staffing was supplemented with much-appreciated

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STAT monitorial and cruising support from Panama and MOD. Contract  
 STAT cruising monitor [redacted] and monitor/editor [redacted] postponed  
 STAT planned vacations to Hawaii and Puerto Rico, respectively, when the  
 "all hands on watch" advisory came from headquarters. The heavy file  
 generated from Havana sources pushed bureau production to the highest  
 since the Grenada crisis in October 1983. The FCC also got involved  
 peripherally when [redacted] discovered a strong spurious emission of  
 Radio Marti on another mediumwave frequency, eventually traced to a  
 faulty transmitter at a Marathon, Florida, commercial station.

Other events of interest in Cuba during the month contributing significantly to bureau output included celebrations marking May Day and the "Victory Over Fascism" (V-E Day), events marking the anniversary of the Cuban-Soviet friendship treaty and the 3-day visit of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. In a speech during the UN leader's visit Fidel Castro reiterated Cuba's decision not to withdraw any troops from Angola until UN Resolution 435 is implemented and Namibia gains its independence.

B. Communications

While not as bad as last month, the landline CANA circuit continues to suffer intermittent outages usually blamed on faulty RCA equipment in New York.

C. Lateral Services

[redacted] STAT

D. Technical

As a result of our experiments with the Navy's Hermes loop array antenna and discussions with Engineering Division, Bangkok Bureau has been asked to ship us their "surplus" Hermes which, when installed, should significantly improve our ability to monitor shortwave broadcasts. ED has also asked Nicosia Bureau to transfer to Key West a Watkins-Johnson fixed-frequency VHF/FM receiver which will be used to enhance the audio reception of Havana TV broadcasts.

*already en route*

Southern Bell, in conjunction with a reconfiguration of its Key West distribution system, installed a Dataphone-200 modem on the NOTIMEX landline circuit. A similar change was made on the CANA circuit earlier this year. FYI regular telephone touch-tone service is still not available in Key West and Southern Bell advises such service is not planned in the near future (this is still an "outpost" of civilization!).

An updated report on the bureau's antenna layout, including azimuthal diagrams, was forwarded to headquarters for inclusion in ED's Bureau Fact Book.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Building and Grounds

The contract for replacement of fencing around the operations building was finalized. Installation will begin in early June after receipt of all necessary supplies.

A contract was signed with Cotton Construction for installation of support poles and burial of the 600-ft lead-in coax cable for the bureau's new "temporary" 97-degree Beverage antenna.

The current heat wave in southwest Florida brought on several breakdowns in the bureau's CAC system. In one instance a pressure limit valve blew open, releasing most of the freon. Another breakdown led to discovery of wiring faults in original installation. Fortunately, problems were corrected quickly by a local contractor.

### IV. VISITS

1. On 2 May USN CDR Lawrence Boyd and Petty Officer Priscilla Ayala, on TDY with COMUSFORCARIB J-2 staff, visited bureau for orientation and briefing.

STAT 2. On 10 May communications supervisor [ ] represented the bureau at a NAS conference on hurricane preparedness.

3. On 10 May the bureau chief represented FBIS at the Naval Security Group Activity Key West change of command ceremony at which CDR Peter Korinis was relieved by CDR Lauren Nelson, formerly head of NSG at Homestead, Florida.

STAT 4. Regional engineer [ ] visited bureau on TDY 13-14 May.

STAT 5. MOD staffer [ ] and Panama Bureau monitor [ ] were detailed TDY to bureau from 20 to 31 May to provide support during aftermath of Radio Marti inauguration.

STAT 6. [ ] specialists with the FCC office in Miami, visited bureau on 29 May in connection with investigation of spurious emissions by Radio Marti.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On 17 May a half dozen bureau staffers and spouses attended a "hail and farewell" party at the Officer's Club in honor of U.S. Forces Caribbean Commander Rear Adm. Ralph Hedges and J-2 Director Col. Mike Lythgoe who will soon be departing "Paradise." On 31 May another "hail and farewell" Polynesian luau was staged at Patio Beach on Truman Annex in honor of outgoing base commander Captain "Red" Best and several other activity commanders with whom the bureau has had frequent contact.

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Chief, Key West Bureau

Attachments:

Production Report  
Miami Herald news clipping & photo

cc: C/Panama, C/Paraguay Bureaus

## KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MAY 1985

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 168,230

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 43,300

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 695

	BROADCAST	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK)	2,575 MIN	14,700 MIN	21 ISSUES
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)			
<b>BAHAMAS</b>			
Nassau Domestic Service in English	<u>-0-</u>		
Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English			<u>-0-</u>
<b>BARBADOS</b>			
Bridgetown CANA in English		<u>57,180</u>	
Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English			<u>-0-</u>
Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English			<u>690</u>
<b>BELIZE</b>			
Belize City Domestic Service in English	<u>-0-</u>		
<b>CUBA</b>			
Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	<u>39,090</u>		
Havana Television Service in Spanish	<u>22,190</u>		
<b>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</b>			
Santo Domingo Radio Mil in Spanish	<u>250</u>		

## KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MAY 1985

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish		<u>420</u>
JAMAICA		
Kingston Domestic Service in English	<u>240</u>	
Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English		<u>640</u>
Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English		<u>-0-</u>
MEXICO		
Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish		<u>43,830</u>
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		
Bonaire Trans World Radio in English	<u>2,960</u>	
THE NETHERLANDS		
Hilversum International in English	<u>840</u>	

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shirts.

# T-shirts commemorate trial on island used to scandal

By PATTY SHILLINGTON  
Herald Staff Writer

Key West artist Judi Bradford summed up more than two months of legal drama with one revealing cliché, immortalized on pink, aqua, ice blue, purple and gray T-shirts: "I Survived the Bubba Bust Trial."

For those involved — the lawyers, defendants, prosecutors, family members, U.S. marshals, legal clerks — nothing more need be said. For the rest of Key West, perhaps a few additional details, piled on a heap of history and folklore, are necessary.

The tension was building Tuesday as 12 jurors continued to deliberate in the "Bubba Bust Trial," so nicknamed because three veteran, "Bubba" policemen stand accused of running a protection racket for drug dealers. The jury began deliberations last Thursday and was in recess for the long weekend.

Eleven others, including Key West lawyer Michael Cates and his wife, real estate agent Janet Hill Cates, are charged with racketeering and cocaine conspiracy.

"Everyone involved is so glad it's finally closing," said Bradford, who printed 48 T-shirts she is selling primarily to law enforcement agents, lawyers and courtroom observers who have followed the often-melodramatic testimony of the last 2½ months.

The T-shirt also enumerates those involved in the trial and instructs the wearer to "check" one of the available boxes. The list includes: witness (honest or other), prankster (voodoo or secular), court watcher, rumormonger, press, juror, defendant.

As the trial proceeded, the rumors flew — one escalating to the point that three local lawyers not involved in the case were pulled into court to testify about their own gossip. Another time, some white powder was sprinkled on a courtroom bench, causing a stir. Some thought it was voodoo. Most agreed it was a joke. Agents determined

what it wasn't: cocaine.

As Bradford sees it, she's carrying on local history in a town still referred to as Smugglers' Island. It was nearly a decade ago when Key Westers were wearing "Where's Bum Farto" T-shirts. Farto, the infamous former fire chief, disappeared in 1976 after his drug-dealing conviction. He's still missing, considered a fugitive by the FBI.

There's more Bubba Bust Trial memorabilia, too.

Another local entrepreneur printed some bumper stickers, on sale at Mallory Square's sunset celebration, after the son of suspended Deputy Police Chief Raymond Casamayor testified that a drug dealer gave him a sports car. The drug dealer, Gustavo "Papito" Fernandez, testified he paid off Casamayor and other police officers to smuggle pot into the city.

The bumper stickers say: "This vehicle purchased with drug \$." Instead of a vertical line, a marijuana cigarette runs through the dollar sign.

While the island braces for the dozens of verdicts in the 68-page indictment, the jury reviews the evidence: thousands of pages of documents, photographs, legal files and even a Filter Queen vacuum cleaner.

Tuesday, the jury asked to hear again a taped conversation between government informant Hector Serrano and Janet and Michael Cates. The jury also wanted to hear some conversations between Serrano and defendant Aristides "Artie" Brito, who says he sold Filter Queens, not cocaine.

The jury is scheduled to resume deliberations this morning in the Key West Federal Building.

Bradford said her T-shirts are selling well, but she acknowledges the market is limited, even within the courtroom crowd.

"Not everyone is going to want one," Bradford said. "I haven't heard from any of the defendants yet."

The shirts are available for \$6 at Guild Hall art gallery on Duval Street.

