

5 January 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- December 1986

I. GENERAL

A. The bureau chief and Chief Technician [redacted] visited El Salvador 9-11 December at the request of the USIS office there. The purpose of the trip was to determine the best location for the FBIS remote equipment that had been removed from the USIS quarters in the embassy after the 10 October earthquake. We decided to reinstall our equipment in a wing of the embassy that survived the earthquake without much damage. [redacted] and contractor [redacted] had the equipment working by 10 December, although the line for our fax operation remains down due to technical problems in Nicaragua. The remote line is working well, and efforts to resume fax operations continue.

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B. We have made limited progress in our quest to obtain Panamanian Government approval for the bureau's two frequency allocation requests. After we queried the embassy on submitting these requests via the military channel, the DCM intervened personally with the Foreign Ministry once again on our behalf. After some discussion clarifying the nature of our request, the Foreign Ministry agreed to reconsider the microwave frequency request if it was resubmitted. We immediately resubmitted the request with a change in wording that we hope will ease any Panamanian concerns. The ambassador and DCM have promised to pressure the appropriate Foreign Ministry officials regularly until approval is granted. We hope to use approval of the microwave frequency request as precedent for gaining approval of our Internet request.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. In the bureau's effort to ensure ongoing monitorial training and quality control, more responsibility for supervision and training has been delegated to the four current monitor supervisors. Each supervisor has been assigned a group of five to six monitors for whom the supervisor is responsible over a 1-year period. The deputy chief and chief monitor have provided guidance and will continue to provide guidance to the supervisors on evaluating and providing feedback to those monitors under their charge, and the monitor supervisors will in turn be evaluated on their performance of these supervisory duties.

2. In early December a Nicaraguan incursion into Honduras generated a flurry of FYI's and substantial copy over several days, and both Daniel Ortega and Honduran President Azcona spoke several times on the tense border situation. Nicaragua also claimed U.S. involvement. The situation abated by mid-month.

3. With the release of Eugene Hasenfus on 17 December, the bureau bade farewell to a steady source of Nicaraguan copy. Before anyone could become too despondent, however, U.S. citizen Sam Hall was caught red-footed with a map in his socks of a Nicaraguan installation. Hall did not make it home in time for the holidays.

B. Communications

1. In response to bureau questions concerning Ft. Huachuca's decision to cut off our yet-to-be-activated G395 (Mode I) circuit, Southcom's J-6 reviewed the history of the circuit along with bureau-supplied background information and found that the circuit had mistakenly been declared active in September. After J-6 informed Ft. Huachuca of the error, and FBIS was assured that no charges for the circuit would accrue until activation (scheduled tentatively for early 1987), FBIS headquarters confirmed that the requirement for the circuit remained.

2. Meanwhile, occasional problems with USAISC's Tech Control continue with the latest occurring the weekend of 19 December. An outage scheduled by Ft. Detrick lasted 12 hours longer than the scheduled 36 hours due to a problem at Tech Control. Although Tech Control personnel on duty insisted the problem lay at the bureau, it was finally determined that the faulty equipment lay at Tech Control. After the problem was discovered and communications restored, the bureau chief wrote a letter to the commander of USAISC requesting a higher authority for bureau personnel to contact in future such situations.

3. Bureau efforts to find alternatives to a direct microwave link into the embassy also continued. We have established a circuit between the bureau and Corozal and are currently awaiting the arrival of technicians to help us establish a microwave link between Corozal and the embassy. Once this link is completed, we hope to be able to send our communications over the embassy's new Skymux.

C Lateral Services

In response to a request from the embassy's political and economic sections, we translated the 10,000-word Panamanian law on dealing with drug-related crimes, which the Panamanian press published on 28 December. After the embassy received the translation, the responsible political officer called to thank us and noted that our translation had made "one helluva difference" to those working on this important subject.

D. Technical

The following accountable property was purchased locally:

One Mitsubishi Montero station wagon Model L047GWNL 1987, Chassis DLO47WHJ400244. Price \$15,108.50

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

- 1. Chief Editor [] was promoted to GS-13 effective 7 December. STAT
- 2. Monitor supervisor [] resigned effective 6 December to live with her new husband in Florida. STAT
- 3. Monitor [] entered on duty 9 December. STAT
- 4. On 8 December Assistant Chief Technician [] attended an introductory management course entitled "Transition of the New Supervisor." This course is one of many professional training courses given by the Corozal Training Center. The bureau plans to send [] and other bureau personnel to future courses. STAT

B. Building and Grounds

Contractor Cedeno Choy & Associates completed the installation of new kitchen cabinets and drawers on 15 December.

IV. VISITS

Director of Security [redacted] accompanied by senior Office of Security officials, visited the bureau on 5 December for a brief tour and orientation.

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V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

1. The bureau held its annual Christmas party this year on 13 December at the Social Espanola Beneficencia. The turnout was good, and a live band ensured plenty of dancing.

2. Another annual Christmastime event, the collection of toys for some of Panama's poorer children, culminated on 20 December with the arrival of approximately 25 bureau employees at Chiva Chiva, our neighbor and the town we chose to sponsor this year. Approximately 120 toys were donated by bureau personnel, who each sponsored between one and three individual children. In addition to the toys, bureau personnel also donated food, drink, and clothes, and contract driver [redacted] provided transportation to and from the Chiva Chiva school. This event, which has become a yearly tradition, is organized by senior teletypist [redacted]

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Each year [redacted] chooses a village for the bureau to sponsor and works with the village's teachers in organizing the party and arranging for the collection of toys.

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Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Panama Bureau Production Report for December 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	362520
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	23040
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	694

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	11955.00 min.	89310.00 min.	207.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish		3200	
Buenos Aires REUTER in English			0

CHILE

Santiago Television Service in Spanish	0		
Santiago REUTER in English			0

CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	0		
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	7140		

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	320		
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	160		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	580		
Bogota IMRAVISION Television Cadena 1 in Spanish	420		
Bogota IMRAVISION Television Cadena 2 in Spanish	730		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	1640		
Bogota REUTER in Spanish		0	
Bogota REUTER in English		0	
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish			800
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			2610
COSTA RICA			
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	5180		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			1550
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			540
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			720
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			430
San Jose RUMBO in Spanish			770
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	1070		
Havana International Service in Spanish	47920		
Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	11470		
Havana EFE in Spanish		190	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		1860	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		4400	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in French		200	
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	510		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	3560		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Quito REUTER in Spanish		0	
Quito REUTER in English		0	
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	3390		
San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish	950		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish	770		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	5330		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	8180		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	710		
San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish	1620		
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			300
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			4020
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			860
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		930	
Paris AFP in Spanish		9250	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		8460	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	1690		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	2320		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish	160		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	920		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			290
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1610
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	17450		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	9500		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	780		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	14290		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			270
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			2590
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			780
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			1860
MEXICO			
Mexico City Red Nacional 13 IMEVISION Television in Spanish	3220		
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	23190		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		230	
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish		240	
Mexico City REUTER in English		0	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			730
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			4580
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			7360
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			620

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			2670
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	970		
Bluefields Radio Zinica in Spanish	370		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	30850		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	0		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	4840		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	3300		
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		0	
Managua ANN in Spanish		4190	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		1240	
Managua SALPRESS-NOTISAL in Spanish		0	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			5820
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			870
PANAMA			
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	580		
Panama City Television Service in Spanish	220		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	160		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		20770	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			1370
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			0
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			1000
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			730

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			1730
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			5890
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			0
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			7630
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			760
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			0
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			70
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
PERU			
Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish	0		
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	3100		
Lima REUTER in English		0	
Lima REUTER in Spanish		0	
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		9670	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish	5370		
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	790		
Caracas REUTER in English		0	
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			130
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			110

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1986 -- ANNEX**TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES****COLOMBIA**

Bogota Television Service in Spanish	1,840
Bogota IMRAVISION Television Cadena 1 in Spanish	420
Bogota IMRAVISION Television Cadena 2 in Spanish	730

CUBA

Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	4,400
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English	1,620
Havana PRENSA LATINA in French	200
Havana EFE in Spanish	190

MEXICO

Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	23,190
Mexico City Red Nacional IMEVISION Television in Spanish	3,220
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish	240
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	230

NICARAGUA

Managua ANN in Spanish	4,190
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	1,240

PERU

Lima Panamericana Television Service in Spanish	3,100
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SPAIN

Madrid EFE in Spanish	400
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VENEZUELA

Caracas Television Service in Spanish	790
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TOTAL FOR DECEMBER 1986	45,800
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