

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
PANAMA BUREAU  
DRAWER 927  
APO MIAMI 34004

5 November 1986

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

I. GENERAL

A. Efforts continued throughout October to obtain necessary approvals from the Panamanian Government for the two frequency allocation requests the bureau submitted last May. Although Ambassador Davis has met with President Delvalle several times on these requests, there has been little forward movement. The current sensitivity of U.S.- Panamanian relations and a highly publicized local struggle over cable television rights, which includes the overall question of satellite transmission, has further complicated our efforts. Other avenues are currently being explored, and if there is no progress on the diplomatic front by mid-November, we expect the embassy to concur in our resubmitting one or both frequency requests through the Joint Military Committee.

B. Meanwhile, preparations for Internet continue. On 22 and 23 October, we received television signals from Quantico in the first test of our ability to receive Internet transmissions. The test, received on the bureau's 13-meter signals analysis ROSET, consisted of two movies and a test pattern. One of the movies, appropriately enough, was "Scanners." The bureau also began to wind down an exhaustive cruising and sampling effort to locate programs of possible Internet interest. Although we have sampled two talk show-type programs on Mexican television that show potential, our sampling efforts for programs of regular interest have not been productive.

C. The 10 October earthquake in El Salvador that almost destroyed the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador created concern here for the safety of our contractors and their families and the remote line equipment located in the USIS compound. Fortunately, everyone was safe, and our equipment survived. Due to the unstable nature of the compound, however, all FBIS equipment had to be removed. Although the remote line is still working, we are now limited to monitoring one Salvadoran radio station on a radio left in the compound in place of our remote equipment. Once the situation in El Salvador stabilizes, we will need to reinstall our equipment at a newly designated site.

D. On 2 October, the bureau came under attack from the U.S. Army 193d Brigade. An artillery exercise gone awry resulted in several smoke grenades landing in the bureau's antenna field. One grenade landed within 100 yards of the bureau. The resulting brush fires were eventually extinguished by the valiant Pedro Miguel Fire Department (one truck). According to Army personnel we contacted, the offending units could not be determined. A letter on the incident was sent to Major General James Taylor, the commanding general of the 193d Brigade.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. On 27 October, the bureau initiated new desk procedures designed to give editors greater control and knowledge of shift operations and to let monitor supervisors devote more time to supervising and developing younger monitors. The new desk configuration and procedures free the monitor supervisors from some of the administrative and editorial "housecleaning" chores and make the editors more responsible for first-line quality control. ✓  
Excellent!

2. In early October, Panama and Key West Bureaus agreed to change SOP on coverage of Castro speeches and major Cuban events. This change was brought on by the lack of Havana International Service coverage of these events and by the agreed upon need to concentrate operational decisionmaking at one bureau as much as possible.

3. ROSET coverage again played a major role in bureau operations during October. At MOD request, we devoted substantial resources to coverage of television feeds from Reykjavik on the meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. Because we were looking for feeds on both the Gorizont 14.0W and Intelsat 24.5W satellites, at times monitors were forced to watch two television screens and prepare two program summaries simultaneously. Numerous FYI's and VSL's were filed during the summit on the bureau's observations of these Reykjavik feeds.

4. Television watches were also prompted by coverage of the UN General Assembly, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visits to Mexico and Cuba, and an AFP report on an attempt on the life of Peru's President Alan Garcia.

5. On 6 October, Nicaraguan soldiers shot down a cargo plane, and the Eugene Hasenfus saga began. Since then, the bureau has remained open past normal COB several times to cover the various news conferences and trial proceedings that have resulted.

### B. Communications

The bureau's communications section has completed its training program on Bach and Sidekick, and the result has been quite encouraging. Although met with some initial skepticism, Bach has become an integral

part of the communications section. Approximately 50 percent of the bureau's file is now sent via Bach, and once a valid version of Bach 1.21 is received, that percentage is expected to increase. Acceptance among the operators is quite high. One tangible benefit from the use of Bach has been its contribution to the drastic reduction in the rejection rate of bureau messages due to typos and format problems. Tests using Sidekick have begun, and plans are under way to familiarize the editors with both Bach and Sidekick. Systems administrator [redacted] and Communications Section Chief [redacted] have been instrumental in implementing bureau efforts in this area.

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### C. Lateral Services

On 6 October, the embassy political counselor asked if the bureau had monitored a statement by Panamanian Foreign Minister Abadia criticizing U.S. administration of the Panama Canal. After learning that this statement was supposedly made during one of two parliamentary sessions on 1 and 2 October, bureau monitors went through the approximately 10 hours of recordings of these sessions. The specific passages were found, translated, and given to the embassy for use in a demarche the ambassador was preparing to make to the Panamanian Government.

### D. Technical

The following accountable property was transferred to headquarters:

Seven demodulators, Frederick Model 1203, Serial Nos. FE-6827, FE-3027, FE-3940, FE-7097, FE-6830, FE-11729, and FE-7009.

One Crown Recorder, Model SX712, Serial No. 12814, complete with amplifier type SXM, Serial No. M-288.

Counter, Model TC, Serial No. 1555.

Three Extel Model AH-11RS (RO), Serial Nos. 105358, 105369, 105377.

The following accountable property was transferred with headquarters' concurrence to the local army disposal office:

Two Suppressors, Interference, Pioneer, Radio Antenna Phasing, Model QRL-2B, Serial Nos. 105 and 95.

Four cabinets of electrical equipment.

One file cabinet.

Two desks.

Six chairs.

One IBM typewriter, Model 6111, Serial No. 7044598.

One IBM typewriter, Model 7250, Serial No. 9352573.

One Crown recorder, Model SS702, Serial No. T-8146, complete with amplifier, type SSMX M-292.

One Crown recorder model SX712, Serial No. 12813, complete with amplifier.

Four antenna multicouplers TRG, Model SU.1-30-50, Serial Nos. 006, 002, 026, and 072.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. At a small bureau ceremony on 10 October, the following employees received promotions effective 12 October:

[redacted]	FBN 6/2 to 7/1	STAT
[redacted]	FBN 9/5 to 10/4	
[redacted]	FBN 6/1 to 7/1	STAT
[redacted]	FBN 7/2 to 8/1	STAT
[redacted]	FBN 8/7 to 9/6	STAT

Also, a cash award of \$500.00 was presented to Chief Monitor [redacted] for superior performance.

2. Monitor Supervisor [redacted] was married to [redacted] on 11 October in a private ceremony in Tallahassee, Florida. [redacted] will be leaving us in December to set up residence in Florida.

3. After receiving almost 150 applications and testing some 60 people, we selected candidates for the bureau's two vacant Spanish monitor positions. They are [redacted] formerly [redacted] [redacted] worked as a monitor here from 1972 to 1977. Both candidates are now being processed for employment.

B. Building and Grounds

1. The Army's Department of Engineering and Housing connected the new 50-ton chiller unit and was finishing up work at month's end. With the installation of a metal sheet to cover the insulation of the pipes, installation will finally be complete.

2. A new motor was installed on the bureau's front security gate. As a result, the gate now takes only 19 seconds to open, a 1-minute reduction.

3. Contractor [redacted] completed the installation of new high-pressure sodium lights throughout the bureau compound.

4. Contractor Cedeno Choy & Associates completed the relocation of 72 feet of fence in the ROSET compound.

IV. VISITS

To the bureau:

1. Lt. Colonel Russell Roller, C/Plans Division, J6, SOUTHCOM; and J6 Programs Manager Bill Matson on 1 October.

2. Brigadier General John Wakelin, Deputy Director for Unified Specified Command, JCS-C3S; Mr. Robert E. Leary (SES-2), Deputy Director, Command Center Systems, DCA; Lt. Colonel Howard Mills, REDCOM, SOUTHCOM, CENTCOM, MAC Division, JCS-C3S; Major Paul Hamilton, Executive Officer to General Wakelin, JCS-C3S; Colonel Joseph Jaworowski, Jr., Director, J6, USSOUTHCOM; Lt. Colonel Russell Roller, C/Plans Division, J6, SOUTHCOM; and Mr. Bill Matson (GS-13), Programs Manager, J6, SOUTHCOM on 8 October.

3. Kenneth Berry, Marian Dettman, and Paul Minch from Ft Detrick for an orientation visit on 21 October.

From the bureau:

Chief Editor  and senior editor  to Corozal Tech Control for orientation on 28 October.

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Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachment  
Production Report

## Panama Bureau Production Report for OCTOBER 1986

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	402240
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	26920
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	995

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	11775.00 min.	90870.00 min.	202.00 issues

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

## ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish		3850	
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	4650		
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	9250		

## COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	940		
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	2270		
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	6990		
Bogota REUTER in Spanish			0
Bogota REUTER in English			0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish			4220
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			5370
COSTA RICA			
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	6540		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			1970
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			0
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			960
San Jose LIBERACION in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			0
San Jose NICARAGUA HOY in Spanish			640
San Jose RUMBO in Spanish			90
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	670		
Havana International Service in Spanish	70260		
Havana EFE in Spanish		410	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		3200	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		6760	
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	1410		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	3670		
Quito REUTER in Spanish		0	
Quito REUTER in English		0	
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	960		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Channel 4 Television in Spanish	580		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	6510		
San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish	1220		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	0		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	5780		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	920		
San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish	950		
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			0
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			260
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			700
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			1890
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		270	
Paris AFP in Spanish		16530	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		3450	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	3020		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	920		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish	210		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	1150		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			1030



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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			2290
<b>HONDURAS</b>			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	8400		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	2050		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	2450		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	6110		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			250
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			1630
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			1000
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			1410
<b>MEXICO</b>			
Mexico City Red Nacional 13 IMEVISION Television in Spanish	11350		
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	6000		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		0	
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish		260	
Mexico City REUTER in English		0	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			730
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			1720
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			2020
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			3110
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			720
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			5810
<b>NICARAGUA</b>			
Managua International Service in Spanish	2750		

Spanish

Radio International

English

Radio Noticias

Spanish

Radio Sandino

Spanish

Sistema Sandino

work in

Spanish

ANN Diplomatic

vice in

Spanish

ANN in

Spanish

PRENSA LATINA

Spanish

SALPRESS-NOTI

Spanish

BARRICADA in

Spanish

EL NUEVO DIA

Spanish

BROAD-  
CASTSPRESS  
AGENCIESPUBLI-  
CATIONS

120

58370

210

130

3530

2990

0

8610

1200

0

10240

1730

1760

3270

500

0

4570

19520

1380

0

480

5060

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			4190
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			5860
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			590
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			1480
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			3570
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			240
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			920
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
<b>PERU</b>			
Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish	0		
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	0		
Lima REUTER in English		0	
Lima REUTER in Spanish		0	
<b>SPAIN</b>			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		7280	
Madrid PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		140	
<b>USA</b>			
New York United Nations Television in Spanish	4860		
New York United Nations Television in English	1610		
<b>USSR</b>			
Moscow TASS in Spanish			0
<b>VENEZUELA</b>			
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	7300		

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Caracas REUTER in English		0	
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			0
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			0

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1986 -- ANNEXTOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

<b>ARGENTINA</b>	
Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish	370
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	6,990
<b>CUBA</b>	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	5,900
Havana EFE in Spanish	410
<b>MEXICO</b>	
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	6,000
Mexico City Red Nacional 13 IMEVISION Television in Spanish	11,350
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish	260
<b>NICARAGUA</b>	
Managua ANN in Spanish	8,290
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	1,200
<b>SPAIN</b>	
Madrid EFE in Spanish	1,350
Madrid PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	140
<b>USA</b>	
New York United Nations Television in English	1,610
New York United Nations Television in Spanish	4,860
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	7,300
<b>TOTAL FOR OCTOBER 1986</b>	<b>56,030</b>