

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

7 July 1986
MPA-6015

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

I. GENERAL

Site preparation for the Bureau's INTERNET facility began in earnest with the arrival of Mr. Howard Hargis of HMH Construction and Mr. Tam Stuart of COMSAT's Management Facilities Planning Staff on 25 and 30 June respectively. By month's end the antenna base had been poured and most of the civil works completed. We were advised unofficially that as of 9 June, our frequency allocation request had cleared all Government ministries and was in the hands of the Panama Defense Forces. Unfortunately, the spate of allegations regarding PDF Commander General Antonio Noriega, which began with a NEW YORK TIMES article on 11 June, has made what was expected to be smooth sailing for the request a bit more uncertain. No word, official or unofficial, on the status of the request was available at month's end.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The month of June began with a 2-hour live speech by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte. The occasion of the speech was to commemorate the Duarte administration's 2d year in office. Duarte concluded his speech by inviting the rebels to new talks to be held at the end of July or during August. Rebel reaction to the speech and invitation came in the form of several commentaries by Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti. The FMLN officially agreed to participate in the talks in a communique carried by the rebel radio stations on 3 June.

The 6 June Contadora meeting began amid continuing confusion and disagreement. The meeting adjourned on 7 June without the final Contadora document being signed, but the Contadora Group did present a new document, the "Panama Declaration." This declaration purported to outline the future path the negotiations process should take to reach a consensus.

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On June 10 in Nicaragua, FDN contras released eight FRG volunteer workers they had captured on 17 May in the eastern part of the country. The release followed several days of intense negotiations conducted by West German SPD official Hans-Juergen Wischnewski and reports of clashes between EPS troops and the contras in the area where the hostages were being held.

On 12 June, the bureau began filing reaction reports from Panamanian media on an 11 June article appearing in THE NEW YORK TIMES alleging that Panamanian General Antonio Noriega is involved in drug and arms trafficking and other illegal activities. Both President Eric Delvalle and General Noriega appeared on Panamanian television on the night of 12 June to refute the allegations. In succeeding days, the bureau filed numerous commentaries and reports from Panamanian media on the allegations.

On 17 June, Panamanian media reported the seizure in Panamanian waters of a Danish ship which was carrying arms. The ultimate destination of the arms was reported variously to be Peruvian guerrillas, the Nicaraguan contras, the Salvadoran guerrillas, and the Salvadoran Government. Local authorities are continuing their investigations.

Following the House of Representatives' approval of aid for the Nicaraguan rebels on 25 June, Panama Bureau filed numerous reports from Managua media, including three speeches by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. On 26 June, the Managua regime announced the closing "for an indefinite period" of the opposition newspaper, LA PRENSA. In addition, Ortega stated that the current state of emergency "will be implemented strictly and severely." A foreshadowing of this appeared in an ANN-reported speech by FSLN member Bayardo Arce on 28 June in which Arce said the Sandinist government will harden its stance regarding those Nicaraguans "who think like Americans, feel like Americans, and frequently leave the country to request support for the counterrevolutionaries and then return to the country as if nothing had happened."

The bureau also filed several reports on the Nicaraguan Government's response to the verdict of the International Court of Justice in which the Court upheld Nicaragua's contentions that the United States had violated international law by financing and directing the contras.

Finally, to top off an active month, the bureau monitored from Panamanian television on 30 June an interview given by Cuban President Fidel Castro. The focus of the interview was Castro's support for General Noriega. Castro insisted that Noriega had never passed intelligence on the United States to Cuba and that the press allegations were a U.S. plot to get rid of Noriega.

The Bureau's dedicated telephone line to the Managua Embassy remained inoperable during the month. The line has been out since 24 May because of cable problems between the Embassy and Telcor, the Nicaraguan PTT. A formal protest has been filed through the INTEL office in Panama City demanding resumption of service and threatening nonpayment for the

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period that the line has been out. The Bureau also is in frequent contact with the Managua Embassy GSO regarding the problem. Unfortunately, similar experiences in the past do not augur well for a quick solution to the problem. Meanwhile, the Managua feeds are being made by commercial phone at a cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000 per month.

B. Communications

As of month's end, no word had been received regarding the status of the Bureau's request to the Panamanian Government for allocation of frequencies to relay our communications to the Embassy via microwave.

A TSO was received from DCA Washington scheduling the Bureau's current Autodin circuit for rehomeing via tone pack to Ft. Detrick on 7 July. It was discovered in conversations with Army communications personnel that although the TSO had been addressed to USAISC Panama, no one there was aware of the scheduled change. Copies of the relevant messages were sent to USAISC.

C. Lateral Services

As a result of the local political furor caused by THE NEW YORK TIMES articles on General Noriega, embassy political officers, including the acting DCM, kept in close phone contact with bureau editors during the month in order to keep track of Panamanian reaction.

D. Technical

A number of problems developed with the ROSET equipment during the month. The azimuth/elevation function on the 13-meter analysis dish failed. A shorted wire inside the armature was found to be the cause and was repaired. In the process of investigating a suspected worn bearing in one of the blower motors of the analysis dish, it was discovered that about an inch of water had accumulated inside the base of the blower and driver motor. This had caused the blower fan to rust and subsequently most of the fan had disintegrated. Checks of the other blower motors on analysis and operations 13-meter dishes revealed varying amounts of water in them as well. With the concurrence of UAI, the blower motor housings were removed and sealed; holes will be drilled in the bases to allow any moisture that might accumulate from condensation to escape. Worn bearings were replaced on one motor. A replacement fan and a spare motor are being sent by UAI.

The following accountable property was procured locally:

Two Sanyo Memo-Scriber transcribers, Model TRC-9100, Serial Nos. 41501503 and 41404252. Unit price: \$289.00

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Two local employees received promotions effective 22 June:
Spanish monitors [redacted] (from FBN 8/2 to FBN 9/1) and [redacted]
[redacted] (from 9/10 to 10/9).

Deputy Bureau Chief [redacted] and family departed
Panama 13 June for home leave and PCS Headquarters. [redacted] who
will replace [redacted] arrived with his wife [redacted] 19 June on PCS.

Chief Editor [redacted] and family arrived 2 June on PCS from
London Bureau.

Interim Bureau Chief [redacted] arrived 5 June on TDY.

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IV. VISITS

On 24 June, the interim bureau chief and new deputy chief paid a
courtesy call on Colonel P. H. Corbett, the Southern Command's deputy
chief of staff for treaty affairs.

On 30 June, the interim bureau chief and deputy visited Colonel R.
O. Abney, commander of the U.S. Army Information Systems Command, Panama.

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Acting Chief, Panama Bureau
FBIS

Attachment
Production Report

Panama Bureau Production Report for June 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	486780
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	19870
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1192

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	11715.00 min.	90870.00 min.	212.00 issues
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (publishable words per month)			

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish		2890	
Buenos Aires REUTER in English			0

CHILE

Santiago Television Service in Spanish	0		
Santiago REUTER in English			250

CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	7740		
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	20350		

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	1510		
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	3250		
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	4600		
Bogota REUTER in Spanish			0
Bogota REUTER in English			200

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish			3000
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			5230
COSTA RICA			
San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	5840		
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	5970		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			2720
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1110
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			2120
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			740
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			0
San Jose RUMBO in Spanish			1130
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua			0
Havana International Service in Spanish	57610		
Havana Television Service in Spanish	12040		
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		7210	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		10040	
ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	1820		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	2150		
Quito REUTER in Spanish			0
Quito REUTER in English			1540
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	3820		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish	520		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	12890		
San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish	2480		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	6410		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	5170		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	1860		
San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish	1150		
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			0
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			840
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			0
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			610
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		630	
Paris AFP in Spanish		17160	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		6470	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	4920		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	270		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	4930		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Guatemala City TELEONCE Television in Spanish	690		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			610
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1730
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	6450		
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	2310		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	8390		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			420
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			2480
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			1510
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			1690
MEXICO			
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	8070		
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	5390		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		1830	
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish		0	
Mexico City REUTER in English		0	
Mexico City REUTER in Spanish		0	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			0
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			970
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			820
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			16940
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			1160

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			2310
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	16500		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	16200		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	160		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	950		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	2060		
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		0	
Managua ANN in Spanish		23410	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		1950	
Managua SALPRESS-NOTISAL in Spanish		0	
Managua BARRICADA INTERNACIONAL in English			1480
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			6800
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			0
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			4330
PANAMA			
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	2900		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	3120		
Panama City PANAVISION Television in Spanish	1050		
Panama City Television Service in Spanish	0		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	6260		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		24400	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			2350

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			860
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			1220
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			3440
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			8590
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			18980
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			1170
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			4460
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			8080
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			0
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			160
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
PERU			
Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish	0		
Lima Television Peruana in Spanish	0		
Lima REUTER in English		490	
Lima REUTER in Spanish			0
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		21650	
USSR			
Moscow TASS in Spanish			0
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	5150		
Caracas REUTER in English		770	

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish		2120
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish		760

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JUNE 1986 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

ARGENTINA	
Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish	460
CHILE	
Santiago REUTER in English	250
COLOMBIA	
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	4,600
Bogota REUTER in English	200
CUBA	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	10,040
ECUADOR	
Quito REUTER in English	1,540
MEXICO	
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	8,070
Mexico City KHDF Television Network in Spanish	5,390
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	1,830
NICARAGUA	
Managua ANN in Spanish	23,410
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	1,950
PERU	
Lima REUTER in English	490
SPAIN	
Madrid EFE in Spanish	2,100
VENEZUELA	
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	5,150
Caracas REUTER in English	770
TOTAL FOR JUNE 1986	<hr/> 66,250