

U.S. Radio-Monitoring Station In Puerto Rico Linked to C.I.A.

Special to The New York Times

SAN JUAN, P. R., Dec. 10—A United States Government listening post for radio broadcasts from the Caribbean, South America, Africa and Europe has been operating for six months on the secluded southwestern tip of this island.

The San Juan Star, an English language daily newspaper, said today that Washington had confirmed that the monitoring station, operated by an agency called the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, was part of the Central Intelligence Agency.

James P. Clark, chief of the information service's Caribbean bureau, said by telephone from his home this afternoon that the operation was "part of the American defense establishment."

"It doesn't help anyone under the sun to pursue it any further than that," he said. When asked whether or not his agency was part of the C.I.A., Mr. Clark replied, "No comment."

Mr. Clark said the Puerto Rico station, which will be in full operation in March, replaced a similar operation in Washington. The key reason for the move was "better quality in radio reception," he said.

"Some 60 persons—about half Puerto Rican—will be employed at the site, about two-thirds of whom are now on duty," he said.

The station in Barrio Las Arenas, near the coastal village of Boqueron, will not make broadcasts, he said.

"The purpose of the F.B.I.S. operation," he said, "is to inform U. S. policy makers as rapidly as possible of developments around the world of world opinion as carried by public foreign broadcasts. These broadcasts include re-

views of foreign newspapers and journals, of interests to such organizations as the United States Information Service and the Voice of America.

"Many F.B.I.S. employes are language experts and editors who select interesting news and forward it to Washington by teletype."

The station, he added, will be monitoring broadcasts in Spanish, French, Creole, Portuguese, Italian, German, Dutch and other European languages. The countries to be monitored include Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Portugal and Venezuela, Mr. Clark said.

Cuban Broadcasts

"Cuban broadcasts are also expected to provide official statements and opinions from that country's Communist regime, of obvious interest to U. S. policy makers," he said.

Construction of the monitoring station, which is being built by the General Services Administration, began about two years ago and is about 90 per cent complete, he said.

Mr. Clark said "it is not our policy" to allow newsmen inside the station. The station's antennae are visible from a road leading from the nearby town of Cabo Rojo to the Cabo Rojo lighthouse at the southwest tip of Puerto Rico.

Cabo Rojo's Mayor, Santos Ortiz, told The San Juan Star that the station's facilities included a series of underground buildings that he had not been permitted to visit.

Mr. Clark said: "I don't want to get into an argument with the Mayor, but there are no underground buildings. We'll be inviting him out here soon so that he can see."

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