

F88-2-1

CUBAN BROADCASTING: A LOOK AT RADIO REBELDE



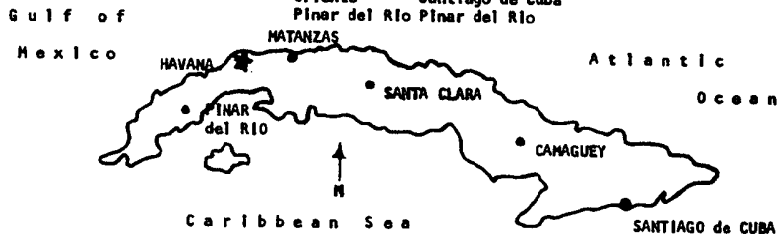
- OCTOBER 1986 -

The following article is composed from observations published in IRCA DX Monitor columns DX Worldwide - West / DX Worldwide - East, current WRTH information, and the current FCC Cuban Standard Broadcast list indicating calculated values of all Cuban stations known to be active on mediumwave. In this article a current analysis of the Cuban Radio Rebelde outlets will be offered, including frequency, locations with FCC coordinates, calculated output power in watts, and information on QSLing the Rebelde network. Hopefully, in the future, similar articles concerning other major Cuban networks will be published. Regretfully, the actual computer-generated listing published by the FCC cannot be reprinted outright in DXM.

Information herein is as accurate as possible compared with the FCC's listing dated September 11, 1986. Provisions of the Radio Broadcasting to Cuba Act, Public Law 98-111, require the FCC to promulgate Rules. In furtherance of the objectives of this Act, the FCC publishes the listing and updates it on an "as amended" basis. The list is published for the purpose of determining the existence and level of interference (QRN) to United States AM radio broadcast stations for the purposes outlined in Part 1, Subpart M of the Commission's Rules. Cuban stations are presumed to be operating at the location and power entered on their list according to the FCC Field Operations Bureau. Corrections/amplifications should be directed to the DXMW-E editor.

Geographically, Cuba is the largest and westernmost of the West Indies and lies at the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico. The south coast is washed by the Caribbean Sea, the north coast by the Atlantic, and in the east the Windward Channel separates Cuba from Haiti. Havana is the capital, and the island country is divided into six provinces:

NAME	CAPITAL
Camaguey	Camaguey
La Habana	Havana
Las Villas	Santa Clara
Matanzas	Matanzas
Oriente	Santiago de Cuba
Pinar del Rio	Pinar del Rio



Through the time of revolutionary Fidel Castro, an extensive program of vilification against the United States, as well as expropriation of US landholdings, banks, and industrial concerns ultimately led to the breaking of diplomatic relations by the US government (Jan., 1961), and that year Castro openly declared his allegiance with the Communist camp. Thereafter followed such activities as the CIA's Bay of Pigs debacle and buttressing of Cuba's military power by the USSR. Castro has remained in firm control throughout, and to this day US/Cuban relations are still at a lowpoint in time. Through the use of mediumwave, EE propaganda and completely unnecessary super-powered transmitters were directed to the United States from time to time. At present, there are no EE language transmissions (except for possibly 1160), but there are still high-powered transmitters and occasional jamming of US stations. For the most part, the QRN originates from many Radio Rebelde outlets located mainly on the lower portion of the BCB. These are the concern of this article.

Quite a variety of programming has been heard on the Rebelde network. In Cuba, the cadena would likely appeal to audiences of almost all ages because of the wide range of music played. The most common format seems to be Cuban/Latin American pop, T40, and contemporary vocals, but US pop, T40, jazz, and even rock and roll have also been heard at one time or another on Radio Rebelde. In the morning hours call-in phone programs have been heard as well. All stations run parallel each other and seem to be 24 hour 7 days as advertised on the QSL card they offer. The fact that they are all parallel (//) makes them easy to ID when DXing Latin America. In the northeast, when conditions are suitable, it is not uncommon to find several of the outlets dominating their respective frequencies at a given time. Even if you cannot sort out more than one Rebelde outlet when DXing, a shortwave tropical band outlet on 5025 kHz is also parallel and makes IDing a mediumwave signal generally very easy. While the following list is as accurate as possible as of the date at the beginning of the article, changes are likely to occur as Cuba continues to shuffle frequencies to accommodate interference to United States AM stations. Any developments will probably be reported to DXMW-W or DXMW-E. The reader is advised to consult these columns from time to time to keep abreast of conditions.

A final note of interest: Although the FCC's Cuban list seems definitely accurate, there are no listings for any Rebelde off-frequency drifters or jammers (there are several - consult worldwide columns). It is assumed that they are unmentioned because their appearances are incidental and are usually absent from the occupied split-frequencies as quickly as they appear. The variable Rebelde outlet on 704w, however, seems to be semi-permanent and was likely on at the time the Field Operations Bureau took the survey; it is unlisted. There are notations, however, where values (freq., power, location) are undetermined or are of less than satisfactory confidence if listed. These notations will be posted here where applicable:

* (FCC listings only) values undetermined or of less than satisfactory confidence if listed
 ‡ indicates heard and still on (as heard in Pgh., PA or reported in DXM)

A LARGE MAP OF CUBA WITH A DETAILED GEOGRAPHIC GRID OF LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE MUST BE USED WHEN DETERMINING CITIES/AREAS USING SUPPLIED FCC COORDINATES. THE AUTHOR HAS ATTEMPTED TO SUGGEST PROBABLE CITY/AREA ACCORDING TO EACH COORDINATE PAIR. NOTE THAT IN SOME INSTANCES FCC LISTINGS (output powers or locations) MAY BE DIFFERENT OR VARY WITH EACH SOURCE.

FREQ	FCC COORDINATES		APPROX. CITY (author)	LISTED CITY (86)	FCC-CALCULATED OUTPUT POWER (watts)	WRTH POWER	COMMENTS:
	lat.	long.					
0550	22,26,XX	83,40,XX	y Martinez	uni	10000	uni	‡ Med/High pwr Rebelde stn still on here.
0550*	20,34,XX	76,53,XX	Manzanillo/Yara	uni	1000	uni	
0580	20,21,XX	74,30,XX	Baracoa/Javco	Baracoa	2000	5000	‡
0590	22,48,XX	82,14,XX	Guines area	(2)La Julia	50000	150000	‡ FCC says only one here. 5000
0600	20,35,XX	76,07,XX	Palma Sorieno area	Urbano Noris	150000	150000	‡
0610	22,54,XX	83,10,XX	Los Palacios	Bahia Honda	1000	1000	‡ One of the 0610's may be an ICRT Reloj station.
0610	21,47,XX	79,59,XX	Tunas de Zaza	Trinidad	1000	1000	
0620	22,43,XX	80,55,XX	ESE of Colon	Colon	30000	30000	} Colon likely the one hrd widely on East Coast.
0620	20,40,XX	74,56,XX	NW of Baracoa (pos on coast)	Moa	1000	1000	
0630	21,23,XX	77,59,XX	E of Camaguey	uni	130000	uni	Not reported lately. Did this move to 710?
0640	20,57,XX	76,57,XX	Omaja	Las Mercedes	10000	10000	‡ Uni in WRTH. Also a R. Progreso stn here.
0640*	20,03,XX	77,01,XX	S of Palma Sor.	uni	1000	uni	
0650*	22,05,XX	80,27,XX	Cienfuegos area	Media Luna	1000	1000	} ‡
0650	20,01,XX	75,50,XX	Santiago de Cuba	Santiago de Cuba	1000	1000	
0680	22,09,XX	80,26,XX	Cienfuegos	Cienfuegos Santiago de Cuba Ciego de Avila	1000	1000	‡ FCC shows only one Cuban on 0680. Prog. & Reb. pgrs have both been hrd here (same stn?). The 1 set of FCC coordinates ind Cienf. as xmr area.
0700-0704	var.	uni	unk	uni	uni	uni	‡ Has been on for several months. The 9/11/86 FCC list may be a newly dated reprint of an old list.



FREQ	COORDINATES	CITY	WRTH CITY	FCC PWR	WRTH PWR	COMMENTS:
0710	23,03,XX 82,28,XX	Guanabacoa (4)	(4)	50000	(4) → (total 190kw)	\$ '86 WRTH lists 4 here from Cuba. In the northeast, reports suggest pwr may be slightly greater than FCC's posted.
	(see 0550 listing)	Pinar del Rio	x-5507	30000		
	(see 0630 listing)	Camaguey	x-6307	60000		
		Arroyo Arenas	x-670	50000		
		Santa Clara	x-690	50000		
0720*	21,46,XX 79,59,XX	S Sancti Spir.	unl	10000	unl	Has not been rpted lately. Still on?
0720	22,08,XX 80,20,XX	Cienfuegos	Cienfuegos	1000	1000	
0730*	20,44,XX 76,11,XX	S of Palma Soriano	unl	7000	unl	Has not been rpted lately. Still on?
0740	22,19,XX 83,39,XX	S of Pinar del Rio	unl	10000	unl	\$ Was Rebelde; now hrd as a Prog. // WRTH lists only 1 here.
0740	21,21,XX 77,55,XX	Camaguey	Camaguey	10000	10000	Nothing Cuban rpted here lately. On?
0750	22,19,XX 83,40,XX	S of Pinar del Rio	Trinidad	100	1000	
0930	19,57,XX 75,52,XX	on coast, ESE of Santiago de Cuba (perhaps Daiquiri)	Santiago de Cuba	1000	1000	Also 2 Reloj outlets here per WRTH and FCC list. (The Reloj outlets are hrd; the Rebelde unheard.)

There are a few frequencies the FCC lists that are not listed as Cuban in '86 WRTH. Since the FCC does not list network slogans on their listings, it is impossible to tell what net these are from without hearing them. Additions go to DXW-E.

Several reports that Radio Rebelde does not QSL led this author to attempt getting a verification. Separate English and Spanish requests were sent to Radio Rebelde at Apdo: 6277 Habana 6, Habana, CUBA, and QSL's, colorful decals, and a personally typewritten v/l were in turn received within three to four months. I always recommend return postage when writing to mediumwave stations, but since Radio Rebelde is probably financed through the Government of Cuba (and allowed to blatantly interfere with US broadcasting almost certainly suggests political angles) rp was not included in either report. Unfortunately, though, it seems to be hopeless to get them to actually verify a certain reported frequency at a certain time - there are no indications on either of the QSL cards or the letter received. A similar report in Spanish inquiring about the 704w jammer was probably discarded - we have received no word on it. The following is a sampling of cards, letters, etc from the Radio Rebelde network:



Calle 23 No. 258 e/ L y M, Vedado, Habana, Cuba. Telf. 32-7511

1986. " AÑO DEL XXX ANIVERSARIO DEL SURTIENDO DEL REBELDE "
 Miércoles 23 de julio. Ciudad de la Habana.

Sr: James R Hall
 240 Byron Road
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 15237. EE.UU

Estimado oyente :

Acuso recibo de su atenta carta de mayo 19, en la que nos plantea haber escuchado nuestra emisora, y nos remite su informe de recepción.

Me es grato comunicarle, que su informe de recepción es correcto y que para nosotros es un gran placer, el poder contar con oyentes extranjeros.

Aprovecho la ocasión, y le envío el QSL de nuestra emisora con un juego de calcomanías.

En espera de continuar contando con su atenta escucha.

Reciba mis saludos,

Jorge Luis Mas Zabala
 Jorge Luis Mas Zabala
 Jº Dpto. Propaganda y Relaciones Públicas
 Radio Rebelde.

DPRP/043/86

CREDITS:

1986 WRTH
 Federal Communications
 Commission
 The active worldwide column
 reporters in IRCA.

This article was originally
 inspired by the works of Mark
 Connelly in Billerica, MA, and
 the other authors in IRCA. Written
 exclusively for the IRCA.

