Correction—cau 11/12/86, "logistical Notes On Contra Military Buildup: Use Of Islands In Gulf Of Fonseca"

Deborah Tyroler
Correction—cau 11/12/86, "logistical Notes On Contra Military Buildup: Use Of Islands In Gulf Of Fonseca"

by Deborah Tyroler
Category/Department: General
Published: Wednesday, November 19, 1986

The geographical location of the Swan Islands mentioned in the article, "Logistical Notes on Contra Military Buildup: Use of Islands in Gulf of Fonseca," is in the Caribbean Sea, NOT the Gulf of Fonseca. Thus, the title should read, "Logistical Notes: Use of Swan and Tigre Islands in Contra Military Buildup." "Little Swan" is uninhabited. "Great Swan" is 2 mi. long by 1-1/2 mi. wide.

The islands are located 200 mi. southwest of Grand Cayman island, 97 mi. north of the Honduran coast. The history of these islands is interesting, in terms of their apparent strategic importance to the United States. Honduras has claimed the islands for several decades. In 1863, however, via an act of Congress, the US unilaterally declared it to be an American possession. In fact, on Dec. 10, 1912, the island was leased to the United Fruit Company by the US government. The islands are today "administered" via several federal agencies. At present, a federal compound and airport are located on the island. In 1960, "Radio Swan" was established on Big Swan. The radio station was owned by Gibraltar Steamship Corp. of New York City. Gibraltar, however, did not own steamships; it was merely a CIA front. Thomas Dudley Cabot was head of the company in 1960. Cabot was a former president of United Fruit Company, and one-time director of internal security at the State Department. Radio Swan was the source of news about the Bay of Pigs invasion. Radio Swan went out of business in 1962, and the facilities were purchased by Radio Americas Inc. of Coral Gables, Fla. According to the Nov. 1985 issue of POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS, Radio Americas, which was still broadcasting in 1968, was "another CIA front." It was from Radio Swan that news about Bay of Pigs invasion was given. After that in 1962, as Radio Swan went out of business, the station was sold to Radio Americas Inc. of Coral Gables, Fla. Radio Americas, according to POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS Nov. 1985, the station was "another CIA front." Radio broadcasts from Big Swan in the early 1970s disappeared, but in 1975, the radio facility once again was put to use. Although the facility is still known as Radio Americas, the station is apparently no longer a CIA front. (For further information on the use of Big Swan for broadcasting purposes, see Popular Electronics, March 1961; Electronics Illustrated, Sept. 1967, and July 1968; CQ Magazine, May 1960; and Popular Communications, Nov. 1985 and December 1985.)

-- End --