

CovertAction
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....

In view of the events last week in Kingston, Jamaica, the Covert Action Information Bulletin wishes to set the record straight and clarify certain important issues regarding what happened.

After a week-long period of extensive investigation in Kingston, we uncovered the presence there of 15 CIA personnel -- in CIA terms a very significant increase from the 9 people there in 1976. This included N. Richard Kinsman, the Chief of Station, who in fact we had named over nine months ago in our October 1979 issue. That issue of the Bulletin was widely distributed both here and abroad, including in Jamaica, where we have a number of subscribers many of whom are working journalists. So the press conference last Wednesday was by no means the first time Mr. Kinsman's identity was disclosed publicly. Moreover, on arriving in Kingston -- eight days before the press conference (which we had at that time not planned on holding) -- no less than three Jamaican journalists approached CAIB independently to discuss what they interpreted as being espionage activities on the part of Kinsman. Only one of them had read about his identity in CAIB nine months previously.

There are a number of sharp inconsistencies about the incident leading us to question whether in fact the CIA may not have had a hand in the shooting on the morning of July 3. The circumstances of the incident require close attention.

As pointed out in the New York Times, Mr. Kinsman did not call the police after the shooting, despite the fact that he has working relations with a handful of high police officials. According to journalists in Kingston, he called the Daily Gleaner, the local newspaper close to the opposition Jamaica Labour Party, which has openly called for the overthrow of the government, and is in many facets of its content and format strikingly similar to El Mercurio, the newspaper in Chile which the CIA funded as its main propaganda instrument between 1970 and the violent overthrow of the Salvador Allende government in 1973.

A maid working for Mr. Kinsman and living in the house where the attack occurred, stated that she "heard a noise during the night" but first learned of the incident only when neighbors showed her the bullet holes later. How was she able to sleep through the noise of loud and prolonged machinegun fire and a grenade explosion on the front lawn?

The position of the CovertAction Information Bulletin has always been emphatic on the subject of violence. We are, and have since we started publication two years ago and back to 1974 as well, been completely and unalterably opposed to violence against CIA personnel. We did not just arrive at this position since last Friday's incident. To physically harm CIA officers is definitely not an effective way to oppose the CIA's covert operations. All it achieves is to give them -

sympathy which they do not deserve. Further, all the CIA will do in such a case is to replace the individual and then carry on its business as usual. While obviously there are many people in Jamaica who are against the CIA's destabilization activities in their country, their call has consistently been for the CIA to leave Jamaica. What is more, if the person(s) behind the shooting outside the Kinsman residence had in fact wanted to kill him, they would have carried out the operation in more than a half-hearted fashion.

There is now a chorus of voices trying to pin blame for the incident on CovertAction Information Bulletin. There is as well the CIA's long-expressed desire to obtain passage in Congress of a pending bill that would make it a criminal offense for anyone, including other journalists who, like us, never worked for the CIA) to name names of intelligence agency personnel. The net result would be to totally stifle the voices of potential whistleblowers in government, or others outside, from discussion of Agency activities. Given the current election-year climate, this is precisely what those who seek to "unleash the CIA" desire.

The CIA has a lot to gain from this attempt to shoot up the home of its top operative in Jamaica -- much more than the many Jamaicans or Americans who stand against CIA covert operations and intervention.

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Attached is the first part of the press release issued last week in Kingston, Jamaica. For further information, please call the above number.

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PRESS RELEASE.....

Kingston, Jamaica
2 July 1980

LARGE CIA STATION IN KINGSTON

For two years the CovertAction Information Bulletin has endeavored to expose the abuses of the United States intelligence complex--operations, "dirty tricks," and personnel--especially of the Central Intelligence Agency. We have, in past issues, exposed several CIA officers stationed in Jamaica, and carried articles about what we believe to be a large-scale destabilization program in operation here in Jamaica.

As is to be expected, the U.S. government periodically issues standard denials of these allegations, suggesting that there is nothing out of the ordinary with respect to U.S. operations in Jamaica. We have decided that it is imperative during this most dangerous period in Jamaican history to challenge these protestations in the most effective way we can. We have conducted an extensive and exhaustive investigation into U.S. diplomatic personnel stationed in Jamaica, and have confirmed that the CIA presence here is on the rise.

In 1976, Philip Agee uncovered nine CIA members here; we have uncovered to date at least fifteen, many recently arrived. At least one senior case officer has an extensive background in extremist, right-wing activities. Another of the case officers here has even been assigned to work with a Jamaican government agency. We list in this press release all the particulars of these personnel we have been able to ascertain, and we will elaborate in our press conference.

We oppose most strenuously the unlawful interference by the Central Intelligence Agency in the internal affairs of Jamaica--and all other countries, for that matter. These people must leave Jamaica; there must be no destabilization of Jamaica. The people of Jamaica must openly and in the democratic political arena determine their own destiny, and not be bent to the wishes of the U.S. intelligence forces.

Philip Agee exposed the presence in Jamaica of the CIA Chief of Station (Norman M. Descoteaux), the Deputy Chief of Station (Joel H. Beyer), as well as two operations officers, two telecommunications people, two secretaries, and two other State Department officers whom he assessed as being involved in some way with the CIA's operations in Jamaica.

Between that time and 1979, the CIA has assigned one Chief of Station (Dean J. Almy, Jr.), and at least two operations officers, three telecommunications people, and two secretaries to Kingston.

At present, there has been a major increase in the size of the CIA Station. The composition of the Station now is as follows:

- The Chief of Station;
- the Deputy Chief of Station;
- five operations officers (including one former Deputy Chief of Station here from 1976-78 who returned to the island recently, and is now assisting in current operations);
- two telecommunications officers, plus one due to arrive within the next two weeks;
- and five secretaries and record-keepers.
- In addition, there is one actual Foreign Service officer who performs some joint activities with the CIA Station, though he is apparently not a CIA officer.

The total CIA complement at the Station then is fifteen people, plus the State Department person who helps out on a part-time basis. It must also be stated that this is, unfortunately, only a partial list. Some may have suddenly left Jamaica in the past few days in anticipation of being identified -- most for the first time, a few who were previously identified for the second time. Additional CIA personnel have in all likelihood come to Jamaica recently to take over the operations of the ones who abruptly left. Other CIA people may prove more difficult to uncover -- be they business people, missionaries, tourists, retired people, or under some other form of "deep cover."

There is in the Kingston Station, as in all CIA bases under diplomatic cover around the world, a division of intelligence operations tasks along particular lines of specialty, including labor, youth and students, media, military and paramilitary or police work, liaison with rightist groups, etc. This division will be made according to the training and experience of the personnel at the Station.