



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: JUL 2000

*NID 80-2245X*

~~Top Secret~~

~~NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-  
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# National Intelligence Daily

*Tuesday*  
*23 September 1980*

~~Top Secret~~

~~CO NID 80-2245X  
TCS 292480  
23 September 1980~~

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Contents

Situation Report

[REDACTED]

Briefs and Comments

[REDACTED]

Jamaica: *Election Outlook* . . . . . 6

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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TCS 2924/80  
23 September 1980

## JAMAICA: Election Outlook

*Prime Minister Manley's energetic campaign is dampening predictions of an overwhelming victory for the opposition Labor Party in the parliamentary election this fall.* [REDACTED]

As the moderate-controlled electoral commission completes preparations for the election--probably to be held around 4 November--the Prime Minister's campaign is convincing many local observers that he can beat the odds. Manley is using the International Monetary Fund as a scapegoat for government mismanagement and is waging an anti-CIA propaganda blitz to blame the US for the plight of the government. [REDACTED]

Even though Manley stands to pick up some uncommitted votes with his aggressive media tactics, he will have great difficulty undoing the support the moderate Labor Party has built up over the past two years among organized labor, small farmers, the professional and business classes, and the security forces. For over a year, the party has maintained a commanding lead in reliable polls. [REDACTED]

Tensions and street violence probably will increase significantly in the formal campaign period--tentatively set to run from the first week of October to the first week of November. Ruling-party radicals may try to mobilize their forces in the streets in a last-ditch effort to steal or postpone the election. If the Labor Party's campaign peaks early or runs short of funds, the outcome probably would be much closer than the polls indicate. [REDACTED]

Even with these uncertainties, however, the Labor Party still appears to have a better-than-even chance of securing a comfortable majority in the next House of Representatives. [REDACTED]