



Director of
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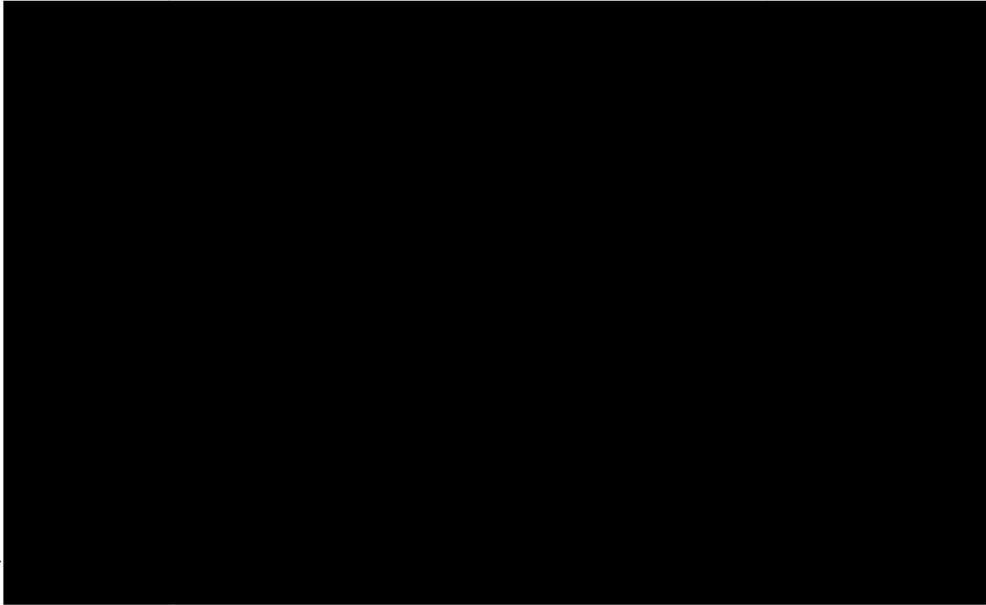
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BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

JAMAICA: Moving Toward the Election

Prime Minists: Manley has told [redacted] leaders of his People's National Party he will hold the national election by early October, 18 months before the end of his constitutional mandate. [redacted]

Leaders of the moderate opposition Jamaican Labor Party, which is favored to defeat Manley, reportedly believe that the election will proceed on schedule. They contend that a delay is unlikely because the Prime Minister has been unable to raise enough foreign credits to keep his government afloat after October. [redacted]

[redacted] a consortium of Middle Eastern countries--Algeria, Kuwait, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates--informed Manley that its \$100 million loan would not be disbursed until after the election. Since he terminated a loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund last March because of its stiff conditions, Manley has replaced lost IMF credits only with a hasty patchwork of loans mainly from OPEC countries. [redacted]

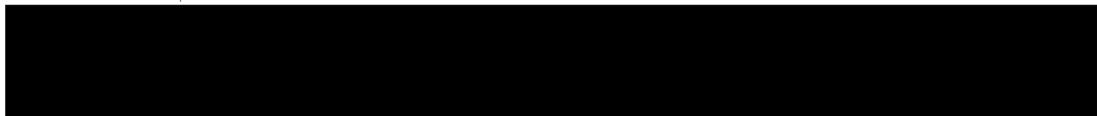
Election preparations are now so far advanced that Manley would have great difficulty turning back. Registration of the over 800,000 voters is virtually complete, both parties have nominated all their 60 candidates, and vigorous campaigning is under way. The Labor Party and the moderate-controlled electoral commission, which Manley helped form, apparently believe that the groundwork for a fair election is being established. [redacted]

Nevertheless, the attempt by some Cuban-assisted radicals in Manley's entourage to increase violence will continue to threaten a fair election. [redacted]

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Opposition leaders reportedly believe Manley's recent effort to expand the security forces and to sideline ruling-party gunmen are sincere. Most local observers seem convinced, however, that the unprecedented level of political violence in this campaign will continue through election day. 

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