

## SPECIAL REPORT

# Kissinger's Operations To Destabilize The Governments Of Guyana And Jamaica

### Introduction

March 6 (IPS) — The Prime Minister of Guyana, Forbes Burnham, last week told an interviewer for the Mexican Daily Excelsior that he feared that “a campaign of destabilization might be unleashed against his government,” and that he was in possession of reports showing that Brazilians were infiltrating the southern border of his country. Two weeks before Burnham had condemned the “vicious slanders and attacks” of press organs who were working with “those foreign elements who dedicate themselves to discrediting Guyana to subvert the stability of the country.”

Burnham's remarks came in direct response to an escalating campaign of press attacks and military threats against both his country and the Caribbean island of Jamaica. The campaign began in earnest approximately three weeks ago when U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger began his tour of Latin America.

The character of the propaganda, diplomatic and military operations against the two small nations resembles closely the initial phases of Kissinger's successful efforts to isolate, destabilize and eventually overthrow the Popular Unity government of Salvador Allende in September of 1973 and evidence clearly suggests that the desperate Secretary of State has begun a Chile rerun strategy against Jamaica and Guyana. This evidence demands that an immediate and thorough investigation be carried out in the U.S. Congress and appropriate international bodies such as the United Nations to put a stop to all such plans or operations being put into effect by the Department of State, the CIA, the National Security Council or other agencies of the U.S. government.

### I. The Kissinger Trip

The major purpose of U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's February tour of Latin America was to patch together a strategy for stopping the motion on the continent toward debt moratoria and a New World Economic Order. Using threats, coercion and bribery, Kissinger attempted to establish the basis for keeping South America from actively pushing the pro-development and pro-moratoria policies of the leading countries of the Group of 77 Developing Nations. Within the hemisphere, Kissinger was most worried about isolating the pro-development government of Peru and with curtailing Cuban influence on countries increasingly open to proposals for moratoria and expanded trade with the Comecon.

The heart of the Kissinger strategy is the use of the Brazilian military as a continental watchdog, and although the trip was for the most part a failure, Kissinger retains that Brazilian threat and a reserve of CIA dirty tricks with which to attempt to keep Latin America in line. This is the capacity that Kissinger and his Atlanticist backers are now employing in attempts to destabilize the pro-development governments of Guyana and Jamaica.

Guyana and Jamaica, two of the smallest countries in Latin America, have been among the strongest organizers continentally and internationally for establishing a New World Economic Order and for rejecting Henry Kissinger's definition of relations between the developed and developing sectors. At the Manila meeting of the Group of 77 in the beginning of February, Guyanese Foreign Minister Frederick Wills called for the abolition of the International Monetary Fund and the creation of an alternative international central bank to finance world development. At the end of February, Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley echoed Wills' call and declared that both the World Bank and the IMF should be replaced with new credit institutions to promote development. Manley called on Third World countries to unite in order to rapidly establish the New World Economic Order. Both countries were among the first nations to establish diplomatic relations with the Provisional Revolutionary government of Angola, and both have taken steps domestically to increase national control over the extraction and processing of their raw materials. Together, Guyana and Jamaica produce approximately 70 per cent of the world's supply of bauxite ore used in the production of aluminum.

### II. Guyana

The context for both propaganda attacks and military threats against Guyana over the last month has been an escalated “hard” position on the part of the United States toward Cuba. Warnings by President Ford and Secretary Kissinger to Cuba over Cuban support for the government of Angola have set the tone for accusing Guyana of cooperating in Cuban and Soviet “aggression” and “intervention.” The anti-Guyana campaign has seized on long-standing air traffic agreements between Cuba and Guyana as “evidence” that Guyana is a Cuban beachhead threatening the security of the continent and the hemisphere.

Although in operation before hand, the propaganda campaign against Guyana was brought to its present level of intensity at the time of Kissinger's stopover in Caracas on the

first leg of his Latin American tour. Apparently replying to expressions of concern by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Kissinger played up the dangers of Cuba's "exportable army" and raised the possibility that it might intervene in Venezuela "in the case of a leftist uprising here." Invoking the provisions of the 1947 Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, a mutual defense treaty, Kissinger vowed that the U.S. would act to counter "aggression from inside or outside the hemisphere."

Within a day of Kissinger's threats against the Cubans, the international bourgeois media picked up the line and connected it to Guyana. On Feb. 18, both the New York Times and the Baltimore Sun printed stories, datelined in Lima, Peru, where Kissinger had just arrived, and said that the U.S. was increasingly worried over "reports of an increased Cuban presence in Guyana."

Kissinger brandished the military strength behind his loud threats the next day with the signing of an "agreement of consultation" between the U.S. and Brazil. From the point of the signing of the accord, the press campaign against Guyana mounted, and the media of the neighboring countries of Brazil and Venezuela joined in with the U.S. press.

On Feb. 25, C. L. Sulzberger of the New York Times wrote from London on the "Cuban confrontation" with the U.S. and includes in his threatening column the allegation that "Cuba still maintains troops in Guyana, on Venezuela's flank, and is training Peruvian pilots at air bases near Havana."

One day later, the Venezuelan magazine Resumen included a feature article entitled "Danger in Eastern Borders", subtitled, "Guyana trains large military forces to hate Venezuela." The article charges that Guyanese troops are being trained by Cubans at four farm camps in Guyana near the Brazilian border and that the camps include Chinese advisory personnel and weapons furnished by East Germany and the Soviet Union. Resumen claims that "Guyanese travel to Cuba for military training and indoctrination," and then in an hysterical attempt to account for Guyana's development-oriented foreign policy, the article charges that Cuban instructors are in charge of a three month training program for all Guyanese diplomats.

The Resumen piece was picked up quickly by the Brazilian daily Jornal do Brasil which quoted the Venezuelan magazine to the effect that "Cubans and Chinese are training Guyanese troops on the Brazilian border." The Chinese embassy in Brazil revealed the absurdity of the charges when it hastily replied that its government would never have any joint military activity with a country that supports "Soviet imperialism." The Brazilian military command also denied the report of the training of troops on the border.

In response to these attacks, echoed in papers in the U.S., the Burnham government has consistently stressed that the charges are totally false and that they form part of a pattern of threats and coercion aimed at diverting Guyana from its pro-development foreign policies. Guyanese Foreign Minister Wills has repeatedly denied that his country is being used to launch attacks against other countries. Guyanese ambassador to Washington, Laurence E. Mann, wrote a letter in reply to Sulzberger's column of Feb. 25. Mann quotes Prime Minister Burnham to the effect that Guyana would not let anyone use her as a base for attacks on other hemispheric nations and goes on to denounce "the most vicious attacks and prevarications" directed against his country. Mann also stresses the good relations between his government and the government of Venezuela. A similar statement of friendship

between Venezuela and Guyana was made the same week by the Guyanese ambassador to Venezuela.

While the Burnham government counters attempts to pit the country against its neighbors, the pro-government press in Guyana is baring the motivations behind the campaign of slanders and false allegations. On Feb. 22, the Sunday Chronicle, Guyana's major weekly, ran a column authored by "an analyst," which is usually taken to mean a high government official. The column attacks the "well orchestrated hostile propaganda campaign" being carried out by "foreign elements" whose purpose is "to freeze... (our) cordial relations with (our) neighbors" and to "prompt our neighbors to feel that their own security is threatened by Guyana." These elements, the column continues, are motivated by the fear that Guyana's "socialist model" might create an "unstoppable attraction" in the continent.

A week later, the Chronicle again hits at the anti-Guyana propaganda operation. Chronicle columnist Carl Blackman begins his column: "The fifth columnists are at us again. They tell the world that there are massive concentrations of Cuban troops on our borders. They are trying to build up a patently false picture of an armed Guyanan rumbling through the jungle apparently bent on gobbling up its giant neighbors. In a malicious way they try to convince the world that the little sardine called Guyana is bent on swallowing the whales all around her." Blackman goes on to link the press smears to an attempt at a "destabilization process" modelled on the operation used to overthrow Chilean President Salvador Allende.

In another column in the same issue of the Chronicle, columnist Mohamed Hamaludin analyzes Kissinger's tour and writes: "The timing of the visit is not as strange as may see. Kissinger had to find a vehicle to carry a new Latin policy, and it is now obvious that he hit upon the idea of isolating both Cuba and Guyana — left-wing countries — using, in particular, scare tactics."

Despite exposure of the method and motivation of the slander campaign, however, the campaign continues and has been escalated to include troop buildups on the Guyanese border. The Brazilian daily O Estado de Sao Paulo on March 2 reported that the Brazilian army had doubled its troops on the Guyanese side of the border and claimed that two planes, "apparently from Cuba," had landed on the Guyanese side of the border. The Estado stressed that the "atmosphere is hot on the border," and reported that "Brazilian soldiers patrol the border 24 hours a day to prevent it from being invaded by the Guyanese military."

It should be noted that Brazil has a 200,000 strong military force equipped with tanks and missiles while Guyana has a combined army and police force of 1,300 men with no heavy artillery.

The Venezuelan magazine Resumen likewise maintained its steady stream of attacks on Guyana and Burnham. On March 7, the magazine ran an article labelling Burnham a "black racist" and a "totalitarian" who uses his country's special intelligence unit (SIU) — "modelled after the N.K.V.D." (the Soviet intelligence agency that preceded the KGB — ed.) — to spy on foreign personnel and embassies in the country. The magazine further charged that the SIU was used by Burnham to "surveil" and "oppress" the large East Indian population of the country which is in large part organized by the pro-Soviet People's Progressive Party, led by Cheddi Jagan. The attempt to incite splits between the black and Indian population comes just at the point that

Jagan's PPP has announced critical support for the government, and it represents an effort to rekindle the Indian black tensions fostered by the British when Guyana was a British colony.

An added purpose of the Resumen article is to squelch building opposition within Venezuela toward Brazil's threatening of Guyana. A Venezuelan Deputy for the Movement of the Revolutionary Left Party (MIR) this week stated that "there is a direct relation between the visit of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to Brazil and the troop reinforcement in the border regions with Venezuela and Guyana." The Secretary General of the Republican Democratic Union Party of Venezuela also this week denounced that role that Kissinger assigned to Brazil and the military mobilizations in that country.

### III. JAMAICA

The destabilization campaign against the Jamaican government of Prime Minister Michael Manley is strikingly similar to the operation being carried out against the Burnham government. The two campaigns, diverge, however, in so far as there is a much stronger internal right-wing opposition inside Jamaica than in Guyana.

The Jamaican right wing has strength in the officer corps of the military, among certain business layers and is organized politically in the pro-British Jamaican Labor Party.

A brief chronology of the last two months indicates the coordination of internal and external efforts to isolate and weaken the Manley government. The chronology begins with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's arrival in Jamaica, supposedly for a vacation. His arrival overlaps with the proceedings of an International Monetary Fund meeting taking place in Kingston.

#### Week of Dec. 28 to Jan 3

Supporters of Manley's People's National Party (PNP) held a large rally in support of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of Angola and in protest of the South African delegation to the IMF meeting. Manley met with representatives of the MPLA and pledged his support. A few days later he met with Kissinger, the next day violence broke out between PNP supporters and members of the Jamaican Labour Party (JLP). JLP supporters battled police.

#### Week of Jan. 4 to Jan. 10:

Justice Minister Munn accused the JLP of training guerrillas to overthrow the legally elected government of Michael Manley. The Trench Town and Jones Town sections of West Kingston — working class neighborhoods of strong support for the PNP — were attacked by JLP mobs. Many homes were burned. The violence and some shooting spreads to the Tivoli Garden section of the city.

The Guyanese Sunday Chronicle revealed that the "international opponents of socialism have opened a major front against Manley through the foreign owned bauxite companies." According to the paper, there are "disturbing reports of covert operations by the American Central Intelligence Agency to destabilize the (Jamaican) government."

#### Week of Jan. 11 to Jan. 17:

The Jamaican Weekly Gleaner reported that violence in the country over the proceeding weeks had left four policemen and several civilians dead, scores injured and 60 arrested.

PNP headquarters were burned in several parts of Kingston. Manley accused the JLP of "hiring armed gunmen to shoot their way to power."

Revere Jamaican Aluminum Ltd., which closed down its operations in August, threatened that it would not reopen unless the government abolished its proposed 10 per cent tax hike.

#### Week of Feb. 18 to Feb. 24:

Manley endorsed the Algerian proposal calling for troops to be sent to help the Angolan government fight off an invasion by the South African military.

#### Week of Feb. 25 to Feb. 31:

Fighting continued in West Kingston. Manley declared a state of siege in the area and ordered a search of all cars entering or leaving the area.

#### Week of Feb. 1 to Feb. 7:

The Jamaican Chamber of Commerce and the Jamaican Manufacturers Association accused Manley of trying to impose a "State Dictatorship" on the island.

#### Week of Feb. 8 to Feb. 14:

Carl Rowan of the Washington Post, in a column entitled "A Communist Jamaica" wrote that though Manley claims he is not a communist, his social and economic revolution, which "embodies every challenge some 2 billion people in the world's poor countries are hurling at the United States," is worrisome because "if he succeeds, the Third World will try to emulate him and we shall all face profound and perhaps dangerous changes."

Police and army in Jamaica raid the offices of the PNP. Nine PNP members were arrested in the PNP stronghold of St. Andrews and weapons were supposedly confiscated.

#### Week of Feb. 15 to Feb. 21:

Jamaica's Weekly Gleaner reported that 870 NATO-trained British Marines from the HMS Bulkward were in Jamaica celebrating "joint maneuvers" with the Jamaican Army. Manley refused to meet with the Bulkward officers claiming that he was "too busy."

JPL accused Manley of bringing in "Cuban spies" camouflaged as construction workers while the Weekly Gleaner warned about "Cuban infiltration" in the island.

Reliable sources from the island of Jamaica reported that Manley is threatened because he does not control the British-trained army and police officers who are being activated against him. The same source reported that the only reason these officers had not openly moved against Manley is because **the Prime Minister has the support of the majority of the rank and file in the Armed Forces and a blatant move against him now would provoke an all-out civil war.**

#### Week of Feb. 22 to Feb. 28:

In an interview with Prensa Latina in Jamaica, Prime Minister Manley echoed the call made by Guyanese Foreign Minister Fred Wills in Manila, calling for the abolition of the World Bank and the IMF and creating new credit institutions to promote development. Manley also called on the Third World to unite and hastily establish the New World Economic Order.

A one page spread in the New York Times entitled "Political Violence in the Slums of Jamaica ... The Island is a Time-Bomb," written by Ralph Blumenthal stressed Manley's shift from pro-West to non-aligned and stated that although Manley is not really a communist, he cannot control the "ro-Cuban" and "pro-communist" youth of his party. Blumenthal also warned that the fact that Communism is being debated in the island as a possible solution to the island's economic woes is dangerous in itself, especially since Jamaica produces 43 per cent of all bauxite that is used for aluminum production.