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ALEXANDER*

PRESS CLIPS

*SOC 4.01.4
Happy Days*

BY ALEXANDER COCKBURN

CIA Sex Blunder

I'm afraid I must record a blunder by the CIA. Both Senate and House reports on U.S. intelligence activities have mentioned a film sponsored by the CIA and produced by Robert Maheu—formerly Howard Hughes's aide—in the early 1950s. It was called "Happy Days," and was a porno flick which purported to show Sukarno, then in charge of Indonesia, in ecstatic sexual congress with a woman.

The CIA's crafty plan was to circulate this film, pretending that it had been secretly made by the KGB in the course of a visit by Sukarno to the Soviet Union. The notion was that when Sukarno discovered that his most intimate moments had been thus recorded he would fly into humiliated rage, reverse Indonesia's entire political and diplomatic strategy, and become a loyal adherent to the American imperium.

There was one thing wrong with the idea. According to a one-time lobbyist for Sukarno in Washington, the Indonesian strongman was not all that he seemed. His reputation was that of being one of the most active and successful priapic potentates in the Orient, and, for that matter, the Occident too. Not so, says the lobbyist. Sukarno was cursed with an extreme case of premature ejaculation. Women emerged from his embraces unsatisfied, pregnant only with ridicule. But the film showed him leaving his Russian partner aglow with fulfillment. Sukarno, said the lobbyist, would have been delighted with the film and ordered its instant distribution throughout the Indonesian archipelago. Lack of adequate research, I'm afraid. The CIA did, I think, once hide in a men's lavatory and steal a specimen of Sukarno's urine, to see whether he had diabetes. Flushed with piss and pride, they did not know what they were missing.

CIA Triumph

Despite this error in judgment, it looks as though the CIA—or, more loosely, the U.S. intelligence establishment—has been keeping a signal triumph from the attention of the American people.

On December 13, 1975, Mr. Gough Whitlam's Australian Labor party was finally swept from power in a general election. A far more conservative administration is now in office, already reversing Whitlam's attempts to render his country more independent of American and Japanese mastery of its valuable natural resources. Similarly, all question of increasing Australian control of the enormous U.S. communications base at Pine Gap has now been abandoned.

What were the circumstances which led up to these events, so favorable to the United States?

As is well known, the crisis which precipitated the election was inaugurated by Sir John Kerr, the governor-general of Australia. With the Australian Senate deadlocked over the prospective budget, Sir John made the unprecedented move of dissolving the entire parliament, thus in effect calling for a general election at an extremely awkward moment for Whitlam, since his cabinet was plagued with financial scandal. Sir John's coup d'etat occurred on November 11, 1975. From sources such as a most interesting article by an Australian journalist in *Le Monde Diplomatique*, here is the scenario.

Shortly before November 11, Whitlam had characterized an American citizen, Richard Lee Stallings, resident in Australia, as a member of the CIA, and furthermore a personal friend of Douglas Anthony, head of the National Agrarian party, which now shares power with the Liberals. At the same time, the Australian *Financial Review* had also called Stallings a CIA agent, adding that he had, in 1967 and 1968, directed the secret communications base at Pine Gap, in central Australia. Anthony, minister of the interior in the administration before Whitlam came to power, had rented to the U.S. the land on which the base was built.

On November 6 the Australian published a quasi-official statement from the U.S. State Department, denying that Stallings worked for U.S. intelligence. Anthony then put down a question, to be asked of Whitlam in parliament, about Stallings's actual status. The head of the Australian Defense Department, Sir Arthur Tange, tried to forbid Whitlam to answer the question, citing "grave threats to national security."

On November 10 the Australian Security Intelligence Organization received a telegram from its Washington representative. According to the Australian *Financial Review*, the telegram stated that the representative had been advised by the CIA that recent developments in Australia had endangered the exchange of intelligence data. Another Australian paper, the *National Citizen*, reported that the telegram stated that Stallings was in fact a member of NSA (the National Security Agency) and that his exposure would imperil "the deep cover" of four other NSA agents in Australia.

Whitlam was to answer Anthony's question about Stallings on November 11. The Australian press also predicted that in the course of this reply Whitlam would reveal hitherto secret details about Pine Gap. Pine Gap has been described as one of the most important U.S. communications bases outside the U.S. itself. In the words of Malcolm Salmon, an Australian journalist describing this saga in the February issue of *Le Monde Diplomatique*, "it is a vital element in the U.S.'s worldwide strategic dispositions. One of its many functions is to track Soviet missile submarines in the southern hemisphere, particularly in the Indian Ocean. Many sources in Australia cite its importance in the development of U.S. first strike capability."

*Sukarno, Pres.
CIA 4 Australia
Stallings, Richard
Lee
Kerr, Sir John
CIA 4.01 Asia
FOUNDATION
CIA 4.01 ASSO.
FOR CULTURAL
FREEDOM
CIA 4.01 LAW
ASSO, FOR
Asia & the Pac.
(orig under
Cockburn)*

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