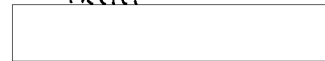




Directorate of Intelligence

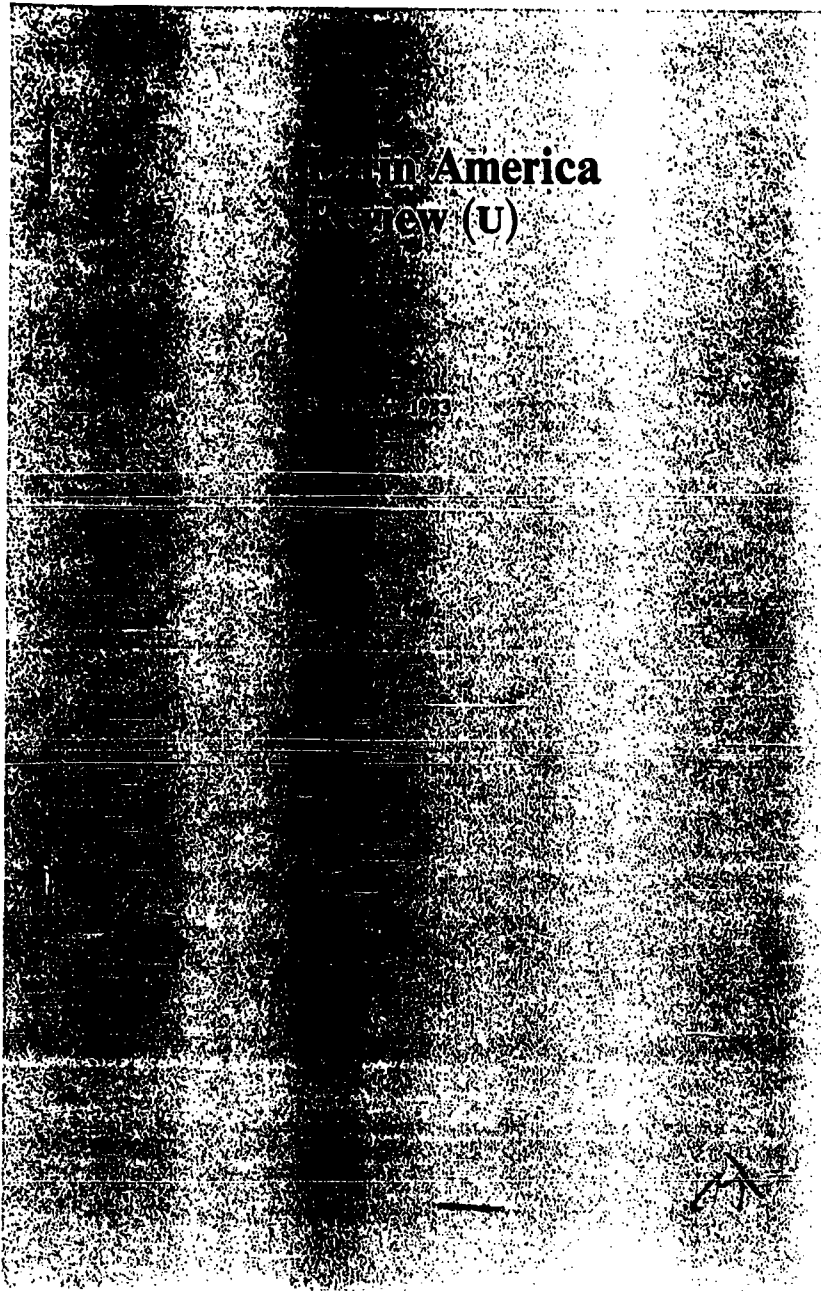
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<b>Dissemination Control Abbreviations</b>	<b>NOFORN (NF)</b>	Not releasable to foreign nationals
	<b>NOCONTRACT (NC)</b>	Not releasable to contractors or contractor/consultants
	<b>PROPIN (PR)</b>	Caution—proprietary information involved
	<b>ORCON (OC)</b>	Dissemination and extraction of information controlled by originator
	<b>REL...</b>	This information has been authorized for release to...
	<b>FGI</b>	Foreign government information
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Gun-toting supporters of former Prime Minister Michael Manley are skirmishing over political territory in Kingston's slum areas with armed backers of a Communist-influenced party linked to Cuba and the Soviet Union.

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**Jamaica: Communist Inroads in Opposition Party (U)**

Recent violence between groups of gunmen from rival political groups in the Kingston slums does not yet constitute a major problem for the Seaga government. The outbursts are symptomatic, however, of a trend toward another violent campaign leading up to the next elections, which must be held by 1985.

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intimidate their opponents and secure key electoral districts.

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In early January, gun-toting supporters of former Prime Minister Michael Manley's People's National Party skirmished over political territory with armed backers of Dr. Trevor Munroe's Communist Workers' Party of Jamaica. Munroe's party, closely linked to Cuba and the Soviet Union, reportedly receives assistance from them. Although it still has little popular support among significant sectors of Jamaican society, it has nevertheless been making gradual inroads into constituencies controlled by Manley's party.

As the Workers' Party becomes more aggressive in trying to build a grass-roots organization and to lure radical leftists from Manley's party, friction between the two is certain to grow.

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In addition to his encroachment in Kingston's ghettos, Munroe—who is a clever organizer—is attracting a larger following within the labor movement, which traditionally has been the backbone of support for the two major parties. By exploiting Jamaican disillusionment with Seaga's ability to engineer a rapid economic turnaround, Munroe can expect to capture some strength among dissident workers. Moreover, leftists who believe that Manley is selling out to more conservative elements may also gravitate to Munroe.

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The Workers' Party collaborated with Manley in the last election, hoping that the alliance would enhance its own influence. Following Manley's devastating defeat in the 1980 elections, relations between the two parties cooled. Moderates in Manley's party charged that association with the Workers' Party had tainted them with the Communist brush and contributed to the defeat. Since then, Manley has taken deliberate steps to distance himself from Munroe and to dispel the widespread perception among Jamaicans that his party's "social democratic" program is a camouflaged version of Munroe's Communist ideology.

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It is unlikely that political warfare will reach the levels of the last election any time soon. The Seaga government is extremely sensitive about projecting an orderly image abroad—particularly since a surge in tourism has been one of the few bright spots in the economy. An escalation of violence would likely result in swift reprisals from the security forces, which have benefited from Seaga's efforts to improve equipment and morale.

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Against this background, Manley and party stalwarts are becoming increasingly worried about Munroe's evident success in courting People's National Party supporters, mainly in the poorer areas of Kingston. In the last three elections, bands of thugs in these areas have engaged in a kind of gang warfare for political turf. By gaining the allegiance of these criminal groups, politicians in each party can employ them to

The longer term danger is that violence-prone radicals will be able to exploit the discontent that surely will follow any major setback in Seaga's recovery efforts. Moreover, if radicals in Manley's party desert in force

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and join Munroe, Cuban-inspired efforts to undermine political stability in Jamaica can be expected to grow as Seaga's five-year term comes to an end.

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