

(Outside System)

INFORMATION
December 18, 1970SECRET/SENSITIVE EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HAIG

FROM: Arnold Nachmanoff

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLYSUBJECT: Memorandum from Helms on Political Situation on
Jamaica

Dick Helms has sent you a memorandum, in response to your request, on the Jamaican political situation. The essence of his assessment is that Prime Minister Shearer's government does not face any serious threat on the immediate horizon, but that he and his principal political opponent would be pretty evenly matched if elections were held soon. However, elections are not required until May of 1972, although Shearer could call them at any time he believes he could win.

Although Shearer's position has weakened since the last election, he does have the advantages that any incumbent party would normally have. Helms notes that the probable major opposition candidate, Michael Manley, would not be expected to pursue policies radically different from those of the present government if Shearer were defeated. He concludes, therefore, that there are no compelling reasons at this time to warrant U. S. involvement in the upcoming Jamaican national elections. You will recall that, in a conversation with you a couple of weeks ago, Ambassador de Roulet made the same recommendation.

I will continue to watch the situation, but I see no reason for further action at this time.

Attachment:

12/11/70 memo fm Helms to Haig

State Dept. review completed

SECRET/SENSITIVE EYES ONLY