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ACTION
July 20, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Viron P. Vaky

SUBJECT: President's Meeting with Jamaican Prime Minister

I understand the President has committed himself to receive the Jamaican Prime Minister. Attached is a memo to the President which is intended to pin down a specific date.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the attached memo to the President.

DOS review completed Pgs 3-6 only.

NSS review completed.

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NO INFO TO BE RELEASED
FOUNDED 1948

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July 22, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *H*

SUBJECT: Meeting with Jamaican Prime Minister

I understand that you have agreed to Ambassador de Roulet's request that you receive the Jamaican Prime Minister, Hugh Shearer. (Ambassador's letter at Tab A.)

Shearer particularly wants to discuss the future of the bauxite industry in Jamaica with you and how Jamaica can get a greater share of tax benefits from the U. S. companies as well as equity participation in the bauxite operations. He may also wish to talk about development assistance; trade, especially sugar; and his own political future.

Since he will be making the trip especially to see you, and will wish to discuss these matters in some detail, the appointment should be for 30-45 minutes. The Prime Minister has said that he cannot come to Washington before August 7, or between September 2 and 25, when he will be touring Africa.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you agree to receive the Prime Minister for 30-45 minutes at a convenient date between August 7 and September 2.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Vakyvrm 7-20-70

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American Embassy
Kingston, Jamaica

July 7, 1970

Honorable H. R. Haldeman
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Bob:

Following our recent conversation in your office, I have seen Prime Minister Shearer five times in the last week. He has requested a visit with the President. The first of these meetings was an extraordinary three hour session alone with Mr. Shearer at his home, followed by some routine calls and a very flattering tribute to the President in the form of a toast at our Embassy party, July 4.

Mr. Shearer is almost shy about asking -- knowing full well the President must limit his appointments -- but I submit to you that it would be in the best interests of the United States if the President granted such an appointment for the following reasons:

1. The political climate here in Jamaica is relatively stable with a two party system of almost equal popular support. It is my judgment that the interests of the United States would best be served by the reelection of the current Prime Minister, who is openly friendly to the United States, who frankly admires the President, and with whom the Embassy enjoys a very close working relationship.

Group 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals,
not automatically declassified.

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2. American investment in Jamaica is around the \$700 million area with at least \$600 million invested in bauxite. As you know, the wasting asset business worldwide is under threat of nationalization and Jamaica is no different. I suspect that the President would have great influence on the ultimate action taken by Prime Minister Shearer. This constructive influence could be of great value to the American investors, as well as to the general national interest in the future supply of this important material. The \$600 million figure is actually misleading as there are additional sums invested in American installations, such as smelters and rolling mills, which depend on Jamaican bauxite. Our gross involvement in this bauxite source may thus be in the billions.

3. The hotel and tourist business is important for obvious reasons, not the least of which is that many of these hotels, clubs and private homes are owned by the President's friends and supporters; for example, John Rollins, Pollard Simonds and John Schiff.

4. Jamaica lies only 500 air miles from the U.S. and is thus of military importance to us. One Cuba is enough, and under its present leadership Jamaica is living proof that a large Caribbean island does not have to be radical, anti-American or unstable in order to be a fully independent national entity.

5. There is a large bloc of voters in America of Jamaican ethnic origin which will respond favorably to a Hugh Shearer visit and the accompanying publicity with the President.

6. If I am to believe the newspapers, the President's identification with a sane, responsible, black leader cannot help but be advantageous to all concerned during the current long, hot summer. Unlike some of the other Commonwealth Caribbean states, Jamaica has not had a Black Power riot during the last year and a half.

7. There is a precedent for this request, as the Prime Minister was granted an appointment with the President last October 22, which, due to a mistake on the part of his staff, coincided with the first

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observance of a new national holiday in Jamaica. The appointment had to be cancelled, much to the embarrassment of Mr. Shearer.

8. The Prime Minister stated that he could come to Washington anytime except between July 30 and August 7 and between September 2 and 25, when he will be touring Africa. (He plans to attend the United Nations General Assembly October 19, 1970.) At our July 4 reception, he said that he would like to come before going to the Non-Aligned Summit Conference in Lusaka the second week of September, so that he "could get the line" before he left. This extraordinary statement would indicate that he would be a responsible and powerful friend in a group of mavericks. As indicated above, he will be touring Africa before and after Lusaka, hopefully with a pro-U.S. image and attitude. As far as Hugh Shearer is concerned, the appointment would be beneficial because he will probably declare the next general election somewhere within the year. The prestige of seeing the President would be helpful.

Therefore, I would request that the President grant Mr. Shearer an appointment at his convenience. I would further ask to keep this visit out of formal channels, if possible. If you deem it best, I will simply bring him up by air and over to the White House for a visit.

In our American vernacular, he could be described as a nice man, who is courteous, well dressed and who would say nothing embarrassing or inflammatory either before, during or after his trip. He is definitely pro-American, a friend of the American Embassy and Ambassador, and an asset and ally to the United States.

Yours very truly,



Vincent de Roulet

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RT. HON. HUGH LAWSON SHEARER, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of External Affairs since April 11, 1967, Member of the House of Representatives for Southern Clarendon since February 1967. Born at Martha Brae, Trelawny, on May 18, 1923, Mr. Shearer was educated at Falmouth primary school and St. Simon's College, Kingston. In 1941, he joined the staff of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union. He rose rapidly to become Island Supervisor and Vice-President of the Union (from which he is now on leave of absence). He was a Councillor of the KSAC from 1947 to 1951 when he was appointed a member of the pre-Independence Legislative Council. He was a member of the



House of Representatives for Western Kingston from 1955 to 1959; Minister Without Portfolio, Leader of Government Business in the Senate and Leader of Jamaica's delegation to the United Nations from 1962 to 1967. A Baptist, Mr. Shearer married in 1947 (since separated) and has one son and two daughters.